

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, November 15, 2012

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Page 5



Lost treasure

Museum looking to return left items to their owners

Page 16



Rusty Male

Boxer gives up title after too long out of the ring

Page 40



Father in battle with hospital over death

THE head of a government select committee has labelled the care received by a Dudley woman who died at a hospital as falling "far short of what she had every right to expect".

But Stephen Dorrell, who also says 35-year-old Wendy Nock's death was avoidable, has told her father the health committee cannot take up individual cases.

It is the latest blow for Harold Nock, of Birmingham New Road, Dudley, but he says he will not give up his campaign for "justice".

He is suing the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust over the death of Wendy, who had spina bifida and died from an intestinal obstruction in September 2009.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said at an inquest there had been "consistent failing among different departments and a number of different staff." A report by General Medical Council investigator Neil Ineson said the care was "deficient".

An independent review concluded, if a CT scan had been carried out, she would probably have survived.

Mr Nock, 64, and his wife Denise, 61, say no staff have been held to account. Now Mr Dorrell has told the couple: "... your daughter's death was avoidable and the care she received while in hospital fell far short of what she had every right to expect."

Care groups win award

DEMENTIA care in Dudley has won a regional award.

The borough's three "dementia gateways", which offer care to people with the condition, won a Great West Midlands Care Award in the Putting People First category.

The gateways at the Brett Young Centre, Halesowen, Brettell Lane Centre, Brierley Hill and Roseville Centre, Coseley, offer therapies, from crafts and memory exercises to gardening. There are also day sessions to provide a break for carers.

SETBACK IN FIGHT FOR HIPPODROME

by Heather Large

HOPES of saving historic Dudley Hippodrome suffered a major setback when the boss of Dudley Zoo backed plans to demolish it, saying it gave a bad first impression of the town.

Campaigners' hopes of saving the building had already suffered a blow after the Black Country Living Museum also spoke out in favour of the Dudley Council proposals to demolish the building in Castle Hill. Members of the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group are working on a revised business plan as they want the venue to reopen as a community theatre. They believe it could host West End-style shows and host theatre workshops and offer training opportunities for young people.

Town could get Sunday market trade

A SUNDAY market could be launched in the heart of Dudley in a bid to boost tourism and revive the flagging town centre.

Food, crafts and gifts could be sold to bring greater footfall to the high street. The venture is among ideas being considered by the Dudley Town Team.

The newly-launched group is tasked with regenerating the high street.

The market would operate separately to the current six-day version, with different traders.

Chairman of Dudley Market Traders Association Len Lenihan has welcomed the idea as long as stallholders were not "all vying for the same trade".

The Town Team has been established to spend Dudley's £100,000 share from the Government's £10 million High Street Innovation fund.

Group members will create a masterplan to refurbish neglected shops and attract new businesses. They will also come up with creative ideas, such as a Christmas ice rink.

Bank manager Mike Wilcox has been invited onto the Town Team and says establishing a Sunday market could be fruitful.

"I would fully support some kind of specialist market, which increases footfall in the town," said the Dudley HSBC branch manager, who is also the Lichfield District Council leader.

Dudley Zoo chief executive Peter Suddock has written to Dudley Council in support of the scheme.

In the letter, he said the building, in its current state, was "detrimental" to the historic castle and gave visitors a bad first impression of the town.

But Mr Suddock said he agreed with the council's plans to tear down the former theatre to make way for a temporary car park.

He said in his letter: "We are supportive of the local authority position for the demolition of this building as it is felt that the current view from Castle Gate island is detrimental to Castle Hill, particularly the Tecton buildings and the castle."

Enhance

Friends of Dudley Hippodrome group chairman Geoff Fitzpatrick said: "I can agree with the point of view regarding the building as it looks at the moment but we believe that our proposals will actually enhance the building and the views from the castle."

Dudley Council officials have asked for a full business plan to be submitted by the end of November to be analysed to see if it's viable.

Last week it emerged that English Heritage had back-pedalled on its opposition to the demolition plans.

Bosses said that they now recognised how the loss of the venue fits in with the wider scheme for the area but said they wanted more information on what was planned for the site before making a decision on the proposals.

In September, it was reported how the council was considering building a new visitor attraction to replace the landmark building, after it was used as a temporary car park.

Borough remembers them



Veterans stand silent around the cenotaph in Dudley which was covered in wreaths

THOUSANDS of people in Dudley borough paid their respects to the armed forces as part of the traditional Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services.

Events were held at churches and war memorials to honour those who have died in conflicts.

In Dudley town centre there was a service

at the clock tower in Priory Street and a two minute silence to mark the end of the First World War. Wreaths were also laid to remember the people who gave their lives during the war.

There was then a parade and service in Coronation Gardens.

● More pictures – page 2

Dangerous driver, 24, jailed after road chase

A DANGEROUS driver who swerved round cars and a bus in a dramatic high-speed police chase through Halesowen has been jailed.

Indian national Verindar Singh, from Smethwick, was spotted by police officers driving at close to twice the speed limit and undertaking a vehicle in Hagley Road West.

He then led a chase which saw him undertake a bus and squeeze between two stationary cars before finally hitting a traffic sign. At Wolverhampton Crown Court on Tuesday, Singh was jailed for six months.

The 24-year-old, of Arden Road, was disqualified from driving for 12 months.

Singh pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and using a vehicle without insurance at an earlier hearing at Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting, said police saw Singh driving a black Vauxhall Corsa, at 12.40pm on September 28.

He said: "In front of the Corsa was a vehicle moving at 30mph, all of a sudden the Corsa went to the inside lane and undertook the car. It was going at 51mph."

Mr Charnjit Jutla, defending, said Singh had panicked when he saw the police sirens because he did not have a licence. He said: "He is deeply remorseful for what he had done."

Humps for crash spot

AN accident hotspot in Dudley is to get new safety measures to tackle speeding and slash the number of crashes.

Two sets of speed humps will be installed on a stretch of Baptist End Road in Netherton.

Ward councillors and residents had complained to the council about the speed of cars travelling along the road and were concerned about the safety of children walking to school. The speed cushions will cost £5,000 after the scheme was given the go-ahead.

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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Memory Lane	10
Club News	17
Puzzle Page	27
TV Listings	24-26
Property	28-29
Motoring	30-33
Classified	34-38
Sport	39-40

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Faster rail link to the Capital is due

RAIL passengers in Stourbridge and Kidderminster will be able to reach the capital from just over two hours with a new high speed link.

Chiltern Railways is introducing the "fastest ever" links to London. The new times have been welcomed by local rail users who say the area's economy will be boosted.

The railway firm is launching a new timetable giving commuters from Stourbridge travel times to the

capital of as little as two hours 11 minutes at peak times and on Saturdays – eight minutes faster than current journey times.

The rail link will start from December 9 and the timetable is online now.

The new fast direct link from Kidderminster to London will depart at 6.09am, taking two hours 20 minutes – nine minutes quicker than the current time – and at 7.09am

with a journey time of two hours 26 minutes. From Stourbridge, the trains will leave at 6.18am, taking two hours 11 minutes, and at 6.38am for a two hour 25 minute journey. Return services will leave London at 5.15pm, arriving at Kidderminster and Stourbridge 18 minutes earlier than the existing 5.07pm train. On Saturdays, the silver trains will leave Kidderminster at 7.12am and 9.10am and Stour-

bridge at 7.22 and 9.20am. Rob Hebron, chairman of the Stourbridge Line Users Group, said: "This is fantastic news. It is a vote of confidence in this section of the line and it means Chiltern is committed to keeping providing a service here. It is very important for the local economy that people can get to the capital and this will make it easier and encourage more people to use the service."

Thousands gather to honour fallen heroes



The Mayor of Dudley lays a wreath at the cenotaph in Coronation Gardens, Dudley



Brownies march past Dudley Council House

Pipers lead the parade to the cenotaph

THOUSANDS of people lined the streets in Dudley borough to pay their respects to the armed forces as part of the traditional Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services.

Events were held on Sunday at churches and war memorials to honour those who died in conflicts.

In Dudley town centre there was a service at the clock tower in Priory Street and a two-minute silence to mark the anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Wreaths were also laid to remember the people who gave their lives. There was then a parade and service in Coronation Gardens.

Residents, Dudley College students, veterans, serving members of the armed forces and civic dignitaries all turned out.

Councillor Melvyn Mottram, mayor of Dudley, said: "It is warming to see thousands of people

turn out to pay their respects to the people who gave so much to this country.

"The Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day services are hugely important to us here in Dudley borough, and I thank people for coming out to show their support."

Singer Maggie O'Hara led a rendition of Abide With Me at a service in Dudley's Grazebrook Park that was attended by Dudley North MP Ian Austin.

Cleaned

The event was first held five years ago following a campaign to get the memorial cleaned of rubbish and graffiti, and has become popular with residents in Oakham, Dixon's Green and Kate's Hill.

Dudley's Black Country Living Museum staged its annual service centred on an eight-ton bronze war memorial at the site, in Tipton Road, which is nicknamed Tommy and commemorates former Springfield Brewery workers in Wolverhampton.

Plans for a second review on waste bid

THE firm behind a proposed recycling plant in Brierley Hill is considering setting up a second consultation following a wave of objections from neighbours.

More than 200 letters have been sent into Dudley Council opposing Clean Power's proposal for the 24-hour plant on a six-acre site off Moor Street since a planning application was submitted a month ago.

Among the objectors is Dudley South MP Chris Kelly, who has helped residents by providing copied letters for them to sign and then forwarded them to the council.

The concerns they raise are the increased traffic created and they also claim there has been an apparent lack of consultation by Clean Power – despite it holding a two-day event in Brierley Hill in June.

The firm said it was looking to organise a second public consultation in response to the strong opposition.

Spokesman Gavin Miller said: "We would like to hold another event to try to address the concerns which have been raised. When we held the last event there was much positive feedback."

Warning on banking con

RESIDENTS across Dudley are being warned to be on their guard from scam letters claiming to be from a foreign bank.

More than 70 people have complained to Dudley trading standards about the con in the past two months.

Complaints include letters sent to properties claiming to offer substantial amounts of money left in a Chinese bank by a deceased relative.

The letters, many of which are from someone named Li Wu, say the money has been unclaimed and offer the recipient the chance to contact the bank to discuss the inheritance.

Artist talking life

CLINT artist Richard Coyle will talk about "life after work" to members of Hagley Wives and Women's Fellowship.

His talk, entitled "When one door shuts another opens" will be at St Saviour's Hall, Hagley, on November 27 at 8pm.

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Borough housing lies empty

MORE than 1,600 council properties across the region are standing empty with more than 500 of them in Dudley.

As many as 35,000 people are on waiting lists – and 1,649 homes are not being used.

In Dudley, there are 554 empty properties, with 6,782 people on the council house waiting list.

Sandwell Homes have 10,412 people on their housing waiting list – and 297 empty properties. The number in March was 431.

Councils insist the figures are decreasing and say they are working to bring properties back into use.

In Wolverhampton, there are 12,213 people on the housing register. There are 320 council homes available to let, which includes 78 adapted and former sheltered scheme properties.

Wolverhampton Homes spokeswoman Kate Hughes said most of the homes that are empty have been offered to prospective tenants through the Homes in the City scheme and are ready for them to move in.

A total of 4,000 applicants are waiting for homes with the Walsall Housing Group.

Stalls at fair up for grabs

A VICTORIAN-style craft fair is looking for charity fundraisers to take up stalls.

It has been organised Rob Carey, landlord of the Jolly Crispin pub, Upper Gornal, for December 6.

It starts at 10am with stalls and activities on the car park.

Cash raised from the fair will go to the pub's charities – Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind and Help4Heroes.

Stallholders will be charged £10 for a space and are asked to wear Victorian period dress for the event.

Call Mr Carey on 01902 672220 or 07881 453285.

Views on service

LIBRARY users in Dudley can have their say on services through a survey this month.

Visitors to any library in the borough until November 18 will be asked to take part in the survey and give their opinions.

Users will be asked for their views on the range of services on offer.

TV celebrities get night going with a bang



The Voice contestant Tyler James appeared

A BOYBAND, TV talent show runner-up and Britain's Got Talent favourite delighted the crowd which turned out to see Merry Hill shopping centre's Christmas lights switched on.

Screaming fans welcomed Lawson as they performed in an outdoor arena. Tyler James, of The Voice, also sang while Britain's Got Talent star Mr Zip entertained with his "hit" Where me Keys, Where me Phone.

All three shared the stage as they, along with hosts Mark Rhodes, from Darlaston and Sam Nixon, turned on the lights.

Fireworks and showers of confetti exploded as the lights came on.

Afterwards Tyler, who is going on tour next month, told how much he had enjoyed performing. He said: "Being in the studio is great but performing to an audience is the best feeling

and it was great." Kate Bowen, aged 32, of Kingswinford, was there with children Niamh, seven, and Ethan, 10. She said: "There has been such a great atmosphere. We loved Lawson."

Diane Hickinbottom, of Brierley Hill, went along with her eight-year-old niece Michaela Powell. The 44-year-old carer said: "I wasn't expecting the fireworks at all. It's been very well organised."

Cindy Morgan saw the concert with her son George, two, and sister Jamie-Lee Morgan, 18. The 22-year-old, of Cannock, said: "It was amazing. The rain didn't put us off. We are really impressed with the lights."

Pamela Burgess, 53, of Netherton, who was with daughter Hope, 15, said: "The decorations are very unusual this year."



Excited fans wait to see Lawson on stage at the Merry Hill Centre

Ice skating, daredevils and festivities at big switch-on



First to try out the skating rink is Alex Hadlington, aged 20, from Lye watched by staff, Bianca Bell, 18, from Dudley and Dean Wits, 23, from Pennsett



Jake Bishop, 10, of Netherton tries out the firing range



Festive food stalls added to the atmosphere



Mandy Manders, of Cradley Heath, with the Swing Grill

ICE-skating, an aerial rope course and a jam-packed Christmas market – this is the Merry Hill shopping centre as you've never seen it before.

Daredevils of all ages flocked to the opening of £1.25 million leisure complex Quest.

Families queued up to take part on the aerial course, while an outdoor ice rink and Christmas market also proved popular.

The 14-metre high aerial ropes course is the largest of its kind in Europe.

Visitors could have a go on the course for free on Friday when it opened for a trial

period. Among those having a go were Colin Turner, aged 69, and his granddaughter Megan Lawrence, 12.

The pair had gone to Merry Hill to meet friends but decided to try out the activities.

Great

Mr Turner, an engineer from Compton, Wolverhampton, said: "It's great. I've never had a go on something like this before but we saw the sign and thought we'd have a look."

Megan, a pupil at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Sedgley, said: "I'm going to come back again with my friends. It was scary but once I got over the beams it was really exciting." A combat zone where families can

enjoy target shooting also forms part of the exciting attraction, which is next to Debenhams. People are harnessed to an overhead track before safely taking on the course's challenges, which include high beams, walk the plank, and rope activities.

The course was shipped over from America and can be viewed from the outside of the centre, where the ice rink is.

The rink will hold up to 150 skaters at any one time, with people limited to a 45-minute session.

A changing area is provided next to the centre's entrance. Centre marketing manager Kelly Reed said: "We're delighted to be opening the new Quest attractions

here at Merry Hill. It's a major investment and features a host of fun and exciting activities for people of all ages to enjoy."

The unveiling of the adventure course comes as opening hours are extended at the shopping centre in the run-up to Christmas.

Extended

It will be open until 10pm on weekdays, 8pm on Saturdays and 5pm on Sundays. Bosses say they hope the new attractions and the longer hours will give traders a boost during the festive period.

Following the festive period, the outdoor area will be transformed to hold a changing programme of family events.

NEWS in brief

Master classes held at college

HALESOWEN College has launched a series of new expressive arts master classes for pupils from Leasowes High School to extend their skills.

The pupils will get the full college experience every Tuesday. They will be practising and improving their techniques in graphics, history of art, glass painting, drama, 3D art and dance from 3.30pm to 5pm. Janet Williams, of Halesowen College, said: "This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils."

Petition against plans handed in

A 1,100-name petition has been handed in by campaigners fighting plans for a recycling facility at a Dudley quarry.

They will speak against plans for Ketley Quarry, Kingswinford, when they go before Dudley planning chiefs. Along with the petition, residents wrote more than 350 letters of objection.

Tilemakers Hinton Perry and Davenhill say they have addressed complaints and co-operated with the council.

Demolition plan for old Scout hut

A FORMER scout hut in Lye will be demolished and replaced with two houses, under new plans.

Kinver developer Shaw Brothers has submitted a planning application for the scout hut in Bagley Street, Lye.

The firm says it would replace the former scout base with a two semi-detached homes, one with two bedrooms, the other with three.

Jewellery show at town library

A JEWELLERY maker will be displaying her work throughout November.

Christine Harmer, from Bromsgrove, who is exhibiting at Kidderminster Library, specialises in using kiln-fired enamels on copper. She said: "I make jewellery in a wide range of styles, which are both colourful and affordable."

Christmas event

THE Friends of St John's Church in Hagley will hold their Christmas fair on November 24 from 11am at Hagley Community Centre.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



REJOICE. The new Archbishop of Canterbury is in favour of female bishops and against gay marriage. He could well be the best thing to happen to the Church for ages.

□□□□□□□□

A NUMBER of you have asked whether the infection threatening our ash trees, will become known as the Welsh disease. Die Back.

□□□□□□□□

SO it's official. The Government is so committed to the idea of Police Commissioners that they don't really care whether you vote or not on November 15. Home Secretary Theresa May says there is no question of the elections being declared void no matter how few people vote. Yet I detect no enthusiasm at all to elect candidates we have never heard of into £100,000-a-year jobs that probably don't need doing on the strength of policies that have not been properly explained, using an electoral process which was roundly rejected in last year's AV referendum.

□□□□□□□□

SOME readers tell me they will be spoiling their ballot papers. One promises to vote for "utter waste of money".

□□□□□□□□

"THEY were brown and they looked nice." The reason some idiots give for eating wild fungi without having a clue what they are, as related on Radio 4 by TV chef Valentine Warner.

□□□□□□□□

ONE of life's little milestones came around, the renewal of my passport. One thing has changed in 10 years; the instructions for the photograph are now very stern. There must be no smiling, no reflective spectacles, no headgear and the head must be kept bolt upright. This is a bit of a blow to those of us who look particularly dashing smiling whimsically over the top of our reading glasses from beneath the brim of a mole-skin fedora. The passport snaps turned out as grim as I expected but at least I appear to be alive, unlike in my 2002 passport photo which looks like a death mask. In years to come archaeologists will be puzzled by the curious discovery that, although foreign holidays were supposed to be happy events, the only people who went on them looked really miserable.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Families 'scared away' by loose dogs in park

LARGE dogs are being let off leads leaving parents afraid to take young children to Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, it is claimed. Darrell Meekcom says a bull mastiff nearly knocked over his 15-month-old daughter.

Christmas switch-on

A FUN-filled family celebration is planned at the weekend when a town's Christmas lights are officially switched on.

The festive lights will be turned on in Blackheath town centre and the celebrations will run from 5 to 8pm on Saturday.

The Mayor Councillor Keith Davies and Santa will turn on the lights at 6pm with Father Christmas handing out free sweets for children.

Entertainment will include a fun fair, charity stalls, a Christmas gift market, a brass band, St Michael's Band, Blackheath Ukulele Group Strummers and a choir from Rowley Hall Primary.

Road closures will be in operation from 3.30pm until 9pm.

Centre will be helping out to direct people towards bus stops.

Mr Meekcom, aged 46, of Wordsley, says he told Dudley Council after a scare with daughter Phoebe. An email from the green spaces team suggested he use another quieter park such as King George V Park, Wordsley.

The council allows dogs to be off leads on the east side of the park. Mr Meekcom, a nurse, says he was told that staff found it difficult to enforce rules as they were busy taking exercise groups and activities.

Signs

He said: "Mary Stevens Park is becoming a dog's paradise and they seem to have more power than humans now."

"There doesn't seem to be any signs telling people where they must keep their dogs on their leads."

Councillor Tracey Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "People visit our parks for a variety of reasons. We would therefore always ask people to be mindful of other park users and would expect dog walkers to keep their pets under control."

Paralympic star in celebration



Paralympian Jordanne Whitley joins the Scouts in Halesowen at the celebration

A PARALYMPIAN from Halesowen joined the town's Scouts group in a celebration of their achievements over the last year.

An awards evening was held at the weekend where more than 100 scouts were given medals.

Wheelchair tennis player Jordanne Whitley handed out the awards at the event at the Earls High School in the town.

The Scouts looked back over a year which included a series of 15 Olympic-themed activities including archery, climbing, orien-

teering and volley ball. In March 90 Scouts made their Olympic torches and carried them in relay to the top of Kinver hill, where lanterns were released into the sky. Other events included a canoeing challenge at Pikes Pool, near Bromsgrove and a cooking competition.

A film was shown to the audience of the Scouts' work during the last 12 months before Miss Whitley, who won bronze at London 2012 in the wheelchair tennis doubles, made a speech.

Fishing ban may be lifted from pool

ANGLING may return to a Halesowen beauty spot for an 18-month trial, under a proposal put to councillors.

Fishing was banned about four years ago at The Leasowes after two ducks that had got caught in lines died.

Halesowen Area Committee heard anglers want fishing allowed for a trial period with up to four people fishing at any one time. There would be no night fishing.

The plan has the support of more than 200 people who have signed a petition but they are opposed by about 160 people against the plan.

They say the sport would ruin vegetation which has grown back at the site.

Councillor Ken Turner said: "We've listened to what each side has had to say and our officers will look in detail at each of their arguments." Retired teacher Paul Thomas, aged 64, said:

"We believe fishing should never have been banned from the site."

Bonfire success

A BONFIRE at Himley Park that attracted more than 23,000 people has been hailed a success – and bosses say they are already planning for next year.

The Blaze of Glory event, which has been running for more than 35 years, is the biggest council-organised show in the country.



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Speed plan by schools pushed on

HIGHWAYS chiefs are going on with plans for 20mph areas outside some schools. Dudley Council is looking at 22 roads outside 17 schools as locations for new speed limits.

It is the first stage of a wider plan, approved by councillors, for the measure to be introduced outside many schools.

Parents, staff and councillors were invited to apply for the new limits, but the council is also looking at schools where children are most at risk.

Director of urban environment, John Millar, told the council cabinet that officers were looking at potentially implementing the speed limit on 22 roads chosen due to the numbers of accidents and children using them.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for community safety, said: "The safety of children outside schools is obviously very important and this is part of the council's work to safeguard them."

"We are now looking at a select group of roads outside schools, now consulting with the schools and ward councillors."

"The officers will then come back with a list of roads where they believe the 20mph limit should be introduced."

Festive bazaar

A FESTIVE bazaar will be held at Stourton Village Hall on December 1 from 9.30am. Call 01364 872073 or 07801 929034 for a stall.

Therapy is no horseplay as animals used for healing

PEOPLE are getting help conquering addictions and mental health problems – straight from the horse's mouth. Former psychology lecturer Elaine Noble says that she and her team of seven horses and one donkey can help people to fight off inner demons. Conditions dealt with can include everything from drug and alcohol addiction to post-traumatic stress and agoraphobia.

Tributes to head found dead at work

TRIBUTES have been paid to a "gentle and kind" primary school head who is believed to have killed herself in her office less than six months into the job.

Helen Mann was reportedly found hanged in her office at Sychampton Endowed Primary School, near Stourport, at the end of a staff training day on November 5.

It is understood the 43-year-old was returning to work after an illness. Her family and the village community spoke of their shock and paid tribute to the mother, who had two sons, George, 13, and Jack, 10.

Father-in-law Kenneth Mann said: "We understand she took her own life. We don't know the exact circumstances but we are all shocked and saddened. Helen had only started work at the school in the summer."

West Mercia Police, who do not believe the death is suspicious, interviewed Mrs Mann's husband, Philip, 48, to find what may have led to the tragedy.

Her firm, Equines Supporting People (ESP), says it helps deliver its own special brand of horse therapy to about 55 clients a year, operating from fields around Stourton, near Stourbridge, and Kinver.

The animals get to the root of it all as they sense what is going on under the surface. Elaine, who lives on Bridgnorth Road, Stourton, with her partner David Price and 15-year-old daughter Tabitha, observes as the clients perform tasks, such as putting a bridle on a horse, and then discusses the reactions of both human and animal.

"The horses pick up what's going on under the surface and mirror it back to you," said Elaine, 43, who was a psychotherapist and lectured at Wolverley High School, near Kidderminster, and at Stourbridge and Halesowen colleges.

Repairing

"Then, when they realise what the horse has picked up on, it's like a repairing process that goes on."

"The horses know people on a very deep level and can read the subconscious – they're like a lie detector."

Among converts to ESP is 52-year-old Steve McCarron, who had complex post traumatic stress disorder after childhood abuse.

Steve, a former stone carver, from Hartlebury, near Kidderminster, was sent to Elaine by Pathways to Recovery of Kidderminster. He says he is able to face up to the damage that abuse wreaked upon his life, which included drug and alcohol misuse.



Elaine Noble with Hugo, one of the horses she uses during the 'repairing process'

NEWS in brief

Special parade is being planned

SERVING soldiers and veterans will march side by side under new proposals to honour their contribution to Staffordshire with a parade next summer.

The parade would pay tribute to the under-threat 3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment, formerly known as the Staffords, and Staffordshire Regimental Association.

Cannock Chase Council leader Councillor George Adamson is behind the event, which could be held in June.

He said that soldiers and veterans would be awarded the freedom of the district.

Garden site is to become 10 flats

TEN apartments will be built on the site of a former garden centre in Stourbridge despite concerns over parking.

They are going to be constructed on land where Hanbury Nursery stood in Worcester Street, just outside the town.

Neighbours had written to Dudley Council saying that they had fears about parked vehicles on a section of the busy street, which is on a bend.

Planning permission was granted.

Christmas songs

A CHRISTMAS concert will be held in Halesowen next month.

The Client Hills Singers will host the free event at St Saviour's Church, Hagley, on Saturday December 8 at 7.30pm.

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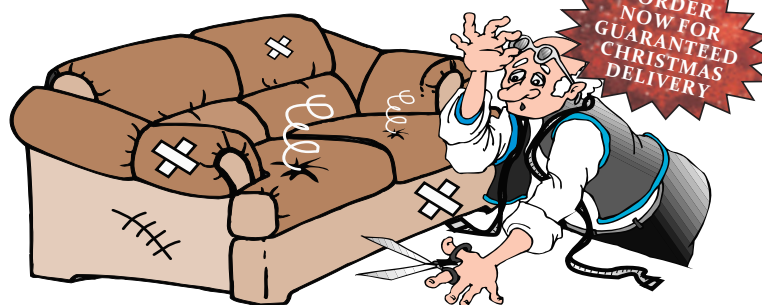
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NEWS

Traders want more say on boosting High Street

TRADERS are demanding positions on a committee set up to revive Dudley's High Street inspired by retail guru Mary Portas.

Among the ideas to boost the town is bringing an ice rink at Christmas following the success of similar schemes in Bearwood and Birmingham.

Dudley was given a share of £100,000 from the Government's £10 million High Street Innovation fund along with Wyre Forest. Now more businesses want talks with council officials to submit ideas for the project.

Dudley already has a town centre partnership made up of councillors, traders and other stakeholders looking into the use.

But government officials want new Town Teams established with a wider remit allowing more people to join and have a say.

Bank manager Mike Wilcox, who is also the Lichfield District Council leader, is among those offering to take part.

"We want to work with the council and have two-way dialogue to find the best course of action for Dudley."

"Everyone from market traders to shop owners want to have a say and kick around ideas that may help boost the high street."

Mr Wilcox, who is the manager at HSBC in Dudley High Street, said similar Lichfield resulted in a voucher scheme and an ice rink for Christmas.

Dudley Council deputy leader Councillor Shaikat Ali says officers are still finalising ways more traders could get involved.

Brewing up charity cash



With their mugs are gym members Jean Gomery, Joy Judd and Margaret Jesson with trainer Angela Willington at Energie Fitness

GYM members raised more than £100 with a pink-themed event for the Breast Cancer Awareness charity.

Members and non-members were encouraged to dress up at Energie Fitness for Women, Old Park Road, Dudley, as drinks, cakes and raffle tickets raised cash. Owner of

Energie Fitness for Women, Bal Dhillon, said: "As a women-only fitness club we feel very strongly about breast cancer and we wanted to do something as our way to stand up to it."

"We have been overwhelmed by the support and generosity of our members and the public."

Festive feed at college

THE training restaurant at Halesowen College will be given a festive look next month. Students will launch their Christmas menu on December 11.

The menu will be available until December 14 and then again from December 17 to 20. Call the booking centre on 0121 602 7851 between 8am and 5pm and on 0121 602 7777 ext 211 5-9pm.

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LETTERS

Dudley needs its own theatre

IT seems Dudley Council are adamant the Hippodrome is bulldozed to make way for another car park.

Do they think the residents of this town do not need a venue like this?

Yes, we have the Concert Hall, but that's OK if you want to see a tea dance or a brass band or the occasional B-list star.

We need the Hippodrome so we too can enjoy big scale performances, musicals, concerts and pantos instead of trudging all the way to Wolverhampton or Birmingham.

We had a car park, it used to be Stone Street, but in their wisdom the council

chose to block pave it and do nothing with it all year until December, when they erect a half bald Xmas tree with half a dozen lights on it. Their solution? Diagonal parking instead. Genius.

If the council are so eager to get the demolition crews in then take a hard look at the eyesore called Hall Street.

From Cavendish House to there it looks like a scene out of war-torn Iraq. It is a disgrace and has needed demolishing years ago with the run down flats above boarded up shops. If they want extra parking then build a multi-storey in Flood Street.

Nobody is going to want to walk all

the way to the edge of town to the proposed new car park. The Zoo doesn't need extra spaces, neither does the museum. What Dudley does need is investment in a theatre to bring revenue in. We have lost all of our big name stores to coffee shops, charity outlets and bargain stores. We need something for people to want to come to our town for and what better way than the reinvention of a superb, much-missed theatre. Dudley folk are more cultured than the council obviously think we are.

MISS C PAGET
Springfield Crescent

Laudable battle but times have changed

IT'S very commendable of campaigners trying to save Dudley Hippodrome.

They have my utmost admiration in trying to re-establish the venue.

In reality it's not a viable venture, not just because of the current economic situation, but all of life's entertainment has changed so much, particularly in recent years.

Netherton Arts Centre have continually staged outstanding productions to attract all ages, and most have been very successful, as it's a relatively small venue compared with the Hippodrome.

Sadly recently, I went to see Romeo and Juliet revisited, again an outstanding production at the Arts Centre, but there were only 5 rows of seats taken.

So beyond a possible reopening, how will organisers attract mass audiences?

JOHN BRENNAN
New resident

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Halesowen Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

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MP Dorries shows little self respect

A TV news report about the suspension of the MP Nadine Dorries from the Tory party after she flew to Australia for up to a month to take part in I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! the reporter mentioned she could find herself in a tank with snakes and cockroaches.

I would have thought that, as an MP, every day she has spent in the House of Commons will have prepared her perfectly for that particular task and a few more unpleasant ones besides!

On a more serious note, however, regardless of any feeble excuses she will give for her actions, the woman is a disgrace with little or no self respect and, more importantly, she obviously has total contempt for Parliament; the taxpayers who pay her obscene salary and her mid-Bedfordshire constituents.

The minimum punishment this woman should receive, is a one month loss of pay and expenses, and her ultimate punishment should be deselection by her local constituency party (who didn't even know what she intended to do), to be sacked from the Tory party and to lose her seat.

R A SARGEANT
Corporation Road, Dudley

Cost of parking prohibits shopping

I LIKE thousands of other people have stopped shopping at Dudley, Wolverhampton, and the town where I live Kingswinford.

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Morrisons in Kingswinford and Merry Hill both have free car parking. I don't like paying to park my car. My opinion is I pay tax to put it on the road, tax on the insurance, and fuel. Parking is a tax too far.

As for Dudley with no major shops now, half the shops closed and the town looks like something out of Mad Max. They are considering increasing car park charges, but the good news is they are employing extra parking wardens to deter illegal parking. I would suggest they give out cash vouchers to encourage folks to parks in Dudley. Unfortunately I won't be one.

JOHN ELLIMAN
Kingswinford

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NEWS

Architectural group sets sights on the King Arthur

A HERITAGE group which campaigns to preserve post 1914 architecture has spoken out against plans to demolish a Dudley pub.

The Twentieth Century Society says the King Arthur on the junction of Birmingham New Road and Priory Road, Dudley is "an excellent" example of a 1930s roadhouse and should be protected.

An application to flatten the pub has been lodged. But in a letter to the council, the group sheds light on the pub's past and asks for it to be preserved.

It was built in 1939 to the designs of Dudley architects Webb and Gray, who also designed Dudley Police Station and Cradley Heath's Majestic Cinema.

Henrietta Billings, senior caseworker for The Twentieth Century Society, said:

"This 'reformed' or 'improved' publichouse style, associated with the Public House Improvement Bill of the 1920s, sought to provide spacious family friendly roadside pubs."

"The King Arthur pub is an excellent example of this building type. It also has an unusually complete and largely unaltered exterior for a building of this period."

"In our view the loss of this historic pub building should be strongly resisted."

It is not yet known whether another use for the site has been found.

Ward councillor Alan Finch has already spoken of his shock at hearing the news, saying it was "a shame".

Owner Amrinder Sandhu was granted planning permission for a £3.5 million hotel project in April 2010. Work had been expected to start that summer.

But in September 2010, it was put up for sale with estate agent Christie & Co and then withdrawn.

But in September 2010, it was put up for sale with estate agent Christie & Co and then withdrawn.

Exhibition may be last



Author and artist Fiona Peart with Gina Lee and Shirley Mills at the Kidderminster Art Society lecture and exhibition in Kidderminster Library

ARTISTS have warned their latest event could be their last in Kidderminster as plans to replace its gallery with office space move forward.

Kidderminster Art Society held its latest celebrity lecture at the gallery - but members say they are concerned they may be forced to move on.

The lecture on the use of acrylics was given by artist Fiona Peart and was attended by more than 60.

Author of many books on art, Fiona appears regularly on Sky Arts and said she was "delighted" to visit the exhibition held at Kidderminster Library Gallery.

Members of the Society have been exhibiting in the old and new

Library Gallery for 83 years. Society vice-president Claire Spencer said: "We have around 70 members and hold regular weekly meetings at Trimpey Hall. The lecture and exhibition opening was well attended."

"This could be our last exhibition at the premises because of the proposed changes and we are concerned that there is no purpose-built space in the centre of Kidderminster."

"We will have to seek another venue but will need some form of hanging or have to use our own screens and unfortunately this would bring about a storage problem." A total of 63 works of art were on show as part of the exhibition which runs until November 29.

Help with big clean-up

VOLUNTEERS will be helping with a community clean-up in Halesowen this weekend. To find out more, call Councillor Jill Nicholls on 01384 395823.



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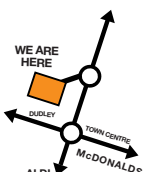
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Landlord has bad punters all shook up with Elvis

Child's toys are stolen in burglary

A CHILD'S bike and scooter have been stolen from a Dudley home. The burglary happened in High Park Crescent, Sedgley, sometime during the night of October 30. The BMX bike and scooter belonged to a 10-year-old. Anyone with information should call police on 101.

School assistant headteacher Janet Price said: "The children have really enjoyed the day and finding out all about theatre." For details on the pantomime visit www.grandtheatrefranco.co.uk

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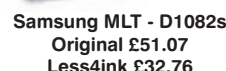
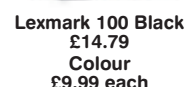
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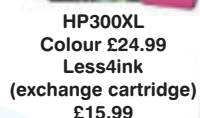
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MEMORY LANE



The first Black Country council housing (W'ton Archives) which is now the site of the Evans car showroom in Wolverhampton (seen above)



Built before 1920 - Stream Park, Kingswinford (Picture: M Whitehouse)

History is preserved in these 'ordinary' streets

WANDERING around the Black Country (as I do) it's all too easy to miss the history preserved in apparently ordinary streets.

One story not often told, but particularly important to the area is the history of council housing.

Every third home in the Black Country was built by a local authority and for the first three quarters of the 20th century the figure was nearer a half. So, hundreds of thousands of family histories are tied up with this particular kind of architecture.

Despite its far-reaching implications, the first chapter in the story of council housing in the Black Country hasn't left us much of a visible legacy. In fact its beginnings are now only archaeology, inauspiciously buried under an unmarked car park in Wolverhampton.

Soon after the first council house was built in London in the late 19th century, Wolverhampton Borough commissioned a terrace of cottage tenements. Between 1902 and the First World War they stood alone as the only municipal housing in the Black Country. Demolished in the

by **Paul Quigley**

Landscape Archaeologist
The distinctly black country network

1980s, the site on the Birmingham Road is now a car dealer's forecourt.

Despite this loss, most council houses built in the Black Country are still around today (as opposed to council flats, which have not lasted so well). So we can put together a story of the rest of the 20th century in surviving buildings.

Different

The candidates for the oldest standing council houses in the Black Country all originate in the plans for the end of the First World War, the start of widespread house-building by municipalities.

Complicating the picture in the Black Country were the literally dozens of councils covering the area. Each had a slightly different approach and probably used different architects.

Examples built before 1920 include the houses on Kate's Hill, Dudley and on Stream Park, Kingswinford.

The experience of house building in the inter-war years also differed between

Black Country councils: those on the coalfield like Bilston, Darlaston and Tipton struggled to find suitable land and often had to level pit mounds and the topping of shafts before they could plan new estates.

Even then they had to avoid canals and railways criss-crossing the area leading to estates being severed from older settlements, such as the so-called 'Lost City' in Tipton. Houses built next to the canal at Rough Hay, Darlaston were typical of those built on former colliery land in the 1920s.

By contrast, in the days before the green belt, towns around the edge of the 'Black Country proper' were able to plan larger estates expanding over farmland. Bristall near Smethwick and the kilometre-long Low Hill estate near Wolverhampton are legacies of this approach.

Part two of the spotlight on council homes will be in a future edition.

● You can get involved in the investigation of the history of local council housing. Go to <http://distinctlyblackcountry.org.uk/blockcapital>



A plan of Low Hill from 1928 (Picture: W'ton Archives)



Interwar housing at Rough Hay, Darlaston



Cottages on Kates Hill, Dudley

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NEWS

Helping to clean up



Susan Gillard, back left, Jason Bullas, Alan John, Nicky Birch, Ann Vaughan and Councillor Jill Nicholls helping VOLUNTEERS are getting stuck in and tidying a housing estate in Halesowen.

Residents on the Highfields estate have long called for improvements to be made to homes and the community.

A project to update homes with new windows and central heating works has been completed by Dudley Council. But residents have decided to muck in by kick-starting a clean up of gardens and public areas. Belle Vale Councillor Jill Nicholls, who help organise the project together with the council's housing department and probation service said everyone was pleased with the project.

"Residents had requested that all the green areas around the flats were in need of a tidy up," she said.

Unconscious man pulled from blaze by fire crew

A MAN was pulled unconscious from his burning flat, and 60 tons of rubbish and a stack of tyres went up in flames during a string of fires in the region.

The rescued man was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham suffering from smoke inhalation after a blaze took hold of his flat in Hermitage Way, Stourport.

Neighbours had frantically tried to break down the door of the flat to rescue him, but it was firefighters wearing breathing apparatus who pulled him from the burning building.

Firefighters from Kidderminster and Bewdley were called to the first floor flat at 3.50pm on October 3 after a passer-by noticed smoke billowing out of the windows.

Neighbour Chris Emms, aged 26, said he saw the smoke and flames coming from the building.

The office worker said: "They were treating him for around 20 minutes before they took him in the ambulance." Police and fire officers are investigating.

Meanwhile, fire swept through the roof space of another house in Stourport.

Fire crews from Kidderminster and Stourport were called to Great Western Way at 6.20pm after reports of a kitchen fire and had to remove the roof above the kitchen.

Elsewhere, a blaze at Viking Skips, Leamore Lane sent a 100ft plume of smoke across an industrial estate in Willenhall. Fire crews found a 60-ton pile of waste materials alight. Firefighters were also called to deal with a stack of tyres at a recycling plant in Walsall.

Hospitals calling for volunteers

VOLUNTEERS are needed to answer queries or hear concerns raised by hospital patients in Worcestershire. The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (Pals) is appealing for people who can spare a few hours a week. Call 0300 1231733.

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NEWS

Tree committee is given the chop to save money

A COMMITTEE deciding on the fate of trees across Dudley has been cut - making about £6,000 savings.

Decisions to chop down established or protected trees have been taken by the Dudley Council committee in recent years. The Tree Preservative Committee was set up so applications on trees could be scrutinised. Councillors agreed to move responsibility to another committee, saving the council £4,650 and £1,550 in allowances paid to the chairman and vice-chairman of the defunct tree committee.

Planning committee member, Councillor Tim Wright, said: "I think that it will be more onerous for the development control committee to have to spend time looking into tree applications."

"The planning committee agenda can often have numerous applications on it, some of which may require site visits. Having tree applications will add to this. When you look at the costs, from that point of view I do welcome it. Council budgets have to be looked at."

The council says it needs to make almost £22 million cuts to budgets in three years to balance the books.

Deputy council leader, Councillor Shaikat Ali said the move would also free up around 100 hours of officers time.

"With 12 tree preservation committees a year, and nine members and three council officers at each one, merging the committees together makes sense and creates a more efficient committee system," added Councillor Ali.

Autumn fair at church

AN autumn fair will be held at Halesowen Parish Church on November 17 from 10am to 3pm.

Stalls will sell items including advent calendars, candles and Christmas puddings. Michael Green's new book Halesowen War Memorial: The Great War 1914-1919 will also be on sale.

Hogging the limelight



Four of the micro piggies that are wowing visitors at Dudley Zoo

ZOOKEEPERS have been delighted by seven new micro-piglets which have been born in Dudley Zoo's farm barn.

First-time mother Poppy quickly took to mothering five hogs and two sows, staff say.

The birth is a first for the farm, after keepers introduced Poppy to resident micro pig Harley. Keepers named the three-week-old piglets Little Ernie, Hamm, Chuck, Brian, Wilba, Dolly and Jemima.

Curator Matt Lewis, said: "Poppy is a first time mum and we were

worried how she would handle it, but she's been absolutely brilliant and seems really happy. The babies are all doing well and are growing quickly. They are certainly getting lots of coos from visitors."

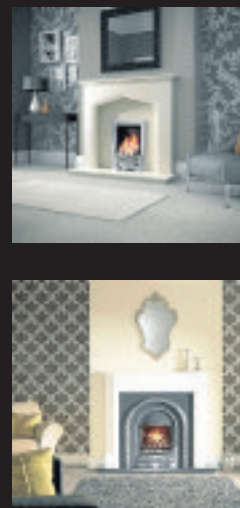
Micro pigs are the smallest breed of pig, weighing nine ounces at birth. Gestation is three months, three weeks and three days.

Mr Lewis said: "Harley seems to be a little bit jealous of all the attention they're getting and keeps peeking over the stall wall so visitors know he's there as well."

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Plans for homes on old fire site are scaled back

A PLAN to demolish a former fire station and replace it with homes has been scaled down following a campaign by nearby residents.

West Midlands Fire Service had initially submitted an outline planning application to pull down Halesowen fire station in Hagley Road for the development of 22 new houses. But following pressure by people living near the site, the fire service has rethought its plan and submitted an application for 14 homes instead.

Five letters of objection and a petition signed by more than 40 people were pitted against the first planning application, submitted in July.

The objections were over an increase of traffic and loss of privacy for the nearby residents.

As part of the new application, a spokesman for the fire service's agents Rob Duncan Planning Consultancy said: "The original application proposed up to 22 dwellings.

However, following concerns being expressed by local residents and the council's highways department, significant revisions to the scheme have been made.

Under the new plan, the development would consist of three and four-bedroom houses, and an access would be created on to Hagley Road. The new planning application has been described as "an improvement" by some people living near the site.

West Midlands Fire Service has lodged the scheme with the authority, which, if approved, will start next spring.

Extra traffic wardens

NEW traffic wardens being recruited by a Black Country council to tackle illegal parking will be patrolling the streets within weeks.

The number of enforcement officers at Dudley Council will be increased by more than a third.

The recruitment process for the jobs has begun and candidates are set to be interviewed in the coming weeks.

It comes as residents around Russells Hall Hospital say problems with roads being clogged by staff and visitors are getting worse.

Five staff will be recruited in the coming weeks, in addition to the 14

employed by the authority. Transport chief Councillor Judy Foster said the wardens should be in their jobs within two months, subject to them working out notice at previous posts.

She said the council should have left the numbers depleted - meaning the focus has been on main town centres instead.

Surrounding

It was revealed last month that no tickets were issued in Russells Hall Hospital's surrounding streets in the three months since the crackdown started.

Some 125 drivers were fined for

illegally parking in Pensnett High Street outside the hospital since July 1 - but parking was already banned there. Council chiefs say there were no tickets issued in neighbouring roads during the same period.

In the 12 months up to October 1, there were 21 notices handed out in Busheyfields Road, and just two apiece in Elgar Crescent and Tenynson Street, with none in Byron Street and Vicarage Road.

Councillor Mary Roberts claims residents were being verbally abused when they challenged motorists.

She said: "A working party discusses the issues with the council but we just seem to be going round in circles."

Talks over parking row

CRUNCH talks between police and council bosses are taking place after complaints about drivers parking illegally.

Upper Gornal and Woodseton neighbourhood team received reports about vehicles being left.

Officers say residents, councillors and police will discuss a way to tackle problems in Clarence Street and Kent Street, Upper Gornal.

Residents say people park illegally and go to shops. Sgt Jimmy Jones said: "Residents are complaining of vehicles parked illegally on the road to use local amenities."

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Work starts on £3.5m Premier

WORK has started on a new £3.5million hotel that will create 25 jobs at a Dudley business park.

The Premier Inn is being built in the Castlegate Business Park.

Developers say it will provide a huge boost for local businesses and tourism.

West Bromwich construction firm Anglo Holt is building the three-storey hotel.

The 63-bedroom building is expected to be completed in May next year and will include a restaurant.

There will also be a cafe, plus 60 outdoor car parking spaces. The development will be built on land owned by the Homes and Communities Agency.

The plans were given the go-ahead in July by Dudley Council. No objections were lodged about the scheme from the council's highways department or environmental health officers.

Restored bells will chime in

BELLS that were lowered from their tower for the first time in more than 120 years have been returned following a major restoration project.

Wear and tear has taken its toll on the bells at Christ Church, Lye, near Stourbridge, over the years – and as a result they are only being rung occasionally. But following a successful fundraising drive – which has raised around £40,000 – restoration work has been carried out to allow them to be chime out again.

The bells have been cleaned and tuned before having their clappers replaced. They are now being hoisted into the tower and

hung on new bedplates with help of volunteers.

Made in Belgium by manufacturer Severin Van Aerschoot in Leuven, the bells have ornate features, markings and inscriptions, unlike most English-made bells of the 1800s. They vary in size from 77lb to 396lb and are partly made from copper and tin making them lighter than most normal bells.

Fundraising

Parishioners have worked for almost three years to raise £40,000 through donations, grants and fundraising to pay for the work. Events have been held to bring in the much-needed funds, including a music hall and jazz evening, skittles night and quiz

evenings. The Ibstock Cory Environmental Trust has given the project £15,000 with £5,000 coming from the Worcestershire and District Change Ringing Association and £5,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation. The rest of the money has been donated to the Church Bells Restoration Project. The replacement pieces, including new headstocks and clappers, had to be specially

designed by an expert before they were made. Joists are also to be replaced as the existing ones are from 1885.

Chairman of the church bell restoration project, Bob Field, said: "This is a major scheme which has not only been supported by members of the church but also bell ringing groups across the area."



David Chiswell guides one of the bells up the tower



Andy Gray and David Chiswell lift one of the bells

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Disgust as new pub hours get go-ahead

A GRANDMOTHER who told councillors that customers at a nearby pub made her life a "nightmare" says she is "disgusted" after the landlord was given the go-ahead to extend weekend opening hours to 1am.

Margaret Parker, aged 65, who lives opposite the Hope Tavern in Cinder Bank, told Dudley's licensing sub committee: "I'm in fear of coming out of my house when parties are on there. It's like a living nightmare."

The sub-committee decided to allow the application, provided licensee Dimmy Sangha fulfils a range of conditions, including installing sound limiting equipment.

100 paintings to go into exhibition

MORE than 100 paintings will be on display as a West Midlands group holds its latest exhibition. Hagley Art Club will stage its 23rd annual art exhibition at Hagley Community Hall, Worcester Road.

It will be officially opened at 7.30pm on November 16 by Alistair Taylor of the Bevere Gallery near Worcester. During the evening he will select his favourite six paintings on display, which will each be classified as "highly commended". The exhibition will then be open to the public on November 17 and 18 from 10am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Call to enter festive card contest

PHOTOGRAPHERS across Dudley can compete to provide the design for the Mayor of Dudley's official Christmas card this year.

Snappers can submit their pictures via Dudley Council's flickr site, with the winning image sent to hundreds of people in the run up to Christmas on the mayoral card.

The Mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, will choose the picture and invite the photo-

grapher to a reception at the Council House in Dudley.

Councillor Mottram said: "There are some stunning locations in this borough, and they would look perfect on a Christmas card."

Entries need to be in by November 22. The council's flickr site is available via: www.dudley.gov.uk.

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4 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £489	6ft wide x 6ft 6" high Great Quality Wardrobes Choice of Colours	NOW ONLY £199	1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £289	Fully Assembled Black Ash. Double Wardrobe + 3 Drawer Chest	NOW ONLY £99 THE PAIR	1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £349	Mexican Pine Fully Assembled Massive Triple Wardrobe	NOW ONLY £169	1 ONLY TO CLEAR Was £699	3ft Wide Electric Adjustable Single Bed Ex. Display	NOW ONLY £149
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NEWS

Hi-tech firefighter fleet will take to the streets

THREE new hi-tech firefighting vehicles will take to the streets, in the second phase of a trial being carried out by West Midlands Fire Service.

The specially-adapted Toyota Hilux Invincibles could be sent to any type of incident reported to the brigade, depending on the information received.

Each carrying three firefighters, they will join the service's fleet from November 7. They will be based at Dudley, Tipton and Coventry but could be deployed anywhere within the West Midlands.

Since February, a Land Rover Discovery and a Range Rover have been trialled as "brigade response vehicles", answering calls to fire alarms and low-level incidents such as grass and bin fires. In 93 per cent of cases, no extra resources were needed.

In the second phase of the trial, the Toyotas – complete with a powerful water pump, 300 litres of water, a ladder, vehicle cutting equipment and water rescue kit – are available to send to all incidents.

Station Commander Ben Brook, who is leading on the project, said: "Brigade Response Vehicles give us greater flexibility in how we respond to incidents, and allow us to better match resources to the type of calls we receive and the risk they pose.

"We're continually reviewing how we respond to incidents – from our control room's professional assessment of the information we get from callers, right through to how many vehicles and firefighters we deploy, and from where."

Winter advice to elderly

AGE UK Dudley will be staging advice drop-in sessions at libraries across the area to help the elderly stay safe in winter.

Teams are at Stourbridge Library on November 20, Halesowen on November 22, and Kingswinford on November 26 from 10am to midday.

Looking for the owners



Marketing support assistant Helen Taylor with some of the lost items

FORGOTTEN treasures are on display at the Black Country Living Museum where the lost and found department is keen to reunite owners with their property. Over the years the Dudley attraction has had hundreds of items handed in, ranging from toys to mobile phones and false teeth. Marketing assistant Helen Taylor said: "We'd love to be able to return these items to their rightful owners." Anyone who spots their belongings can contact Linda Larnar on 0121 557 9643.

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FROM £109.95 (Saturday Night)

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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

CLUB NEWS

No hanging around by group on project

Talk on holistic therapy



The wall hanging made by members of Sedgley evening guild's arts and crafts group

THIS wall hanging was made by 25 members of the Guild's arts and craft Group, to be hung on the wall of Sedgley Community Centre where the guild's are and craft meetings are held.

At a recent open day there the group made more than £500 which will be donated to Macmillan Cancer Support, an extremely worthwhile cause.

The centre is run entirely by volunteers and is of a very high standard. The craft

SEDGLEY EVENING TOWNSWOMENS GUILD

group thought it would be a sign of their appreciation to make this hanging to enhance the main hall of the building.

The guild's next meeting will feature a talk by the RSPB. Meetings are held on the third Monday in the month at 7.15pm. Visitors and new members are welcome.

HAWNE 'E' TWG

THE chairman welcomed everyone to the October meeting. Sandra and Mollie were standing in for Sheila and Sandra, who were otherwise engaged.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed, there were several matters arising.

Forthcoming trips were finalised, including to Chatsworth House and A Christmas Carol.

Sandra was asked for ideas for entertainment for the Christmas party. The committee will provide presents for each member.

The speaker for this evening was Pat Nock, from Natural Balance.

She described her work as holistic therapy, treating the whole person, and different methods she used to achieve this, from bath oils, reflexology, candles, working on emotions, also Indian head massage with oils, all of these things helped the body to look after itself.

She demonstrated Indian head massage on several of our members, one or two dropping to sleep. It was a very enjoyable and informative evening.

After tea and biscuits, raffle, and sales table, the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

The next meeting is on Monday, November 19 and the theme will be silver jewellery.

Lottery grant is awarded

THIS non-profit making group of volunteers has won a £13,200 Heritage Lottery Fund grant to produce a permanent record of the men from the villages who died in the two world wars.

Its planned completion is in 2014 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the

WALL HEATH & KINGSWINFORD WAR MEMORIAL RESEARCH GROUP

outbreak of the Great War. It is also intended to produce a Book of Remembrance and a website along with a number of local displays, the first on November 24 from 10am-

4pm at Kingswinford Library. Anyone with information to contribute can contact Joy at wallheathkford@hotmail.co.uk or call 07739672121.

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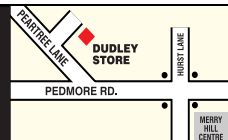
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Jean and Ivan Dunn

Man accuses surgeon over breast cancer ops

Have your say on council tax rise

RESIDENTS will be given a say on whether council tax in Dudley should be increased in the largest consultation the authority has ever held.

The council recently revealed plans for a further £22 million of cuts – and has admitted that council tax could rise.

But finance chief Councillor Pete Lowe today said thousands of members of the public would be able to air their views. And he insisted their opinions would be taken into account before a decision is made.

Freezing tax for another year could leave the council having to find shortfall of £9m. An increase of under two per cent will mean the council has to find an extra £5m in savings to keep their medium term plan on track.

If the authority has to increase council tax to pay its bills, a rise of more than two per cent would have to be agreed by borough voters at a referendum next year.

A 38-year-old Black Country salesman has accused a suspended surgeon of carrying out two unnecessary breast cancer operations on him. Ian Paterson is being investigated by police and health chiefs over treatment of more than 1,000 patients but James Fernihough, of Kingswinford, is believed to be the first man to make a complaint.

The father of two daughters, two and five, is talking to Thompsons solicitors, who say the surgeon performed up to 1,150 “unnecessary, inappropriate or unregulated” procedures at NHS and private hospitals.

Mr Fernihough found a lump below his left nipple in 2009.

He was treated privately by Mr Paterson at Little Aston Hospital, Sutton Coldfield and said he was told it needed to be removed without being given a biopsy to check if it was cancerous.

Analysis later showed it was harmless fatty tissue, Mr Fernihough said. “I was just relieved that I didn’t have cancer so I thought it was fantastic news and I was really happy,” he added.

Three months later he had another lump. Mr Paterson arranged an operation. The lump was fatty tissue.

by Adam Burling

“He asked me if I wanted him to remove it – he said it was up to me and he couldn’t tell me if the lump was something sinister or not,” Mr Fernihough said.

Mr Fernihough set a world record and raised thousands for charity lifting more than 500 tons in a 24-hour weightlifting challenge.

Checked

He said surgeons should be checked to ensure they make right choices for patients. A General Medical Council (GMC) inquiry potentially spans up to 700 cases involving breast tissue left after mastectomy, Thompsons say.

Mr Paterson, 54, was suspended by the GMC.

Protest at academy bid



Redhill School Concern Group spokeswoman Pauline Faux and organiser Martin Lynch with fellow campaigners

PARENTS staged a town centre demonstration in their battle against plans to turn a Stourbridge secondary school into an academy. Governors at Redhill School will vote later this month on whether the school should opt out of local authority control. But a protest group has been set up against the proposals amid fears there could be “major” changes to how the school is run. Around 30 members of Redhill School Concern Group with placards gathered in Lower High Street, Stourbridge, on Saturday to protest.

Views are sought on town centre blueprints

RESIDENTS are being urged to have their say on a blueprint drawn up to help shape the future of Hales-owen town centre.

A consultation on the Hales-owen Area Action Plan will run until December 12.

The plan aims to help guide investment and identify where shops, homes and leisure developments will be located.

More than 200 surplus parking spaces have been identified, and it is hoped that some could make way for shops and businesses.

Suggested sites include office block Trinity Point and the High Street car park, which is under-used.

The plan says it would be ideal for retail and leisure development, although it recommends some short-stay car parking is retained.

Among other sites is the Pool Road car park, owned by Dudley Council, which bosses say is suitable for retail.

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REVIEWS

Grin and bare it at emotional comedy

Calendar Girls, Wolverhampton Grand
 TIM Firth's *Calendar Girls*, as first made famous on the big screen in 2003, is a real rollercoaster of a play. Now ten years old, it is the real life tale of a Women's Institute who made a controversial nude calendar that landed them in the international media's attention.

Set in rural Yorkshire the play revolves around Annie, played by Sue Holderness, a woman who loses her husband, John, to leukemia. Her WI club is not all jam and Jerusalem, more like vodka and store bought sticky buns.

The all-star cast contains many well known names from TV and the stage. The two leading ladies are Sue Holderness, Marlene in *Only Fools and Horses*, and Lesley Joseph

from *Birds of a Feather*. These two provide wonderful performances that are emotive and genuinely hilarious.

The other actors are also superb and leave the audience with some really memorable moments, particularly Helen Fraser (as Jessie), the oldest character but the one with the most spirit and some of the funniest lines. The hottie of the group Celia, played by Kathryn Rooney, is a bombshell that may leave the more sensitive blushing.

The film's famous scenes translated well on stage. This is a play with laughter that really tugs at a person's heart strings.

Calendar Girls continues at the Grand until Saturday.

Tom Mason

Dolly led the way

Hello Dolly, Wolverhampton Grand
 DOLLY was in good form for Bilston Operatic's latest production at the Grand Theatre.

Combining their talent for quality singing with some strong individual roles produced an entertaining evening. Impressive costumes and sets gave a colourful warm feel to the show.

However, maybe due to first night nerves, some of the big showstopping numbers lacked a bit of sparkle but I'm sure as the week went this will have remedied itself.

Carrying the show's title role is Maggie Page who gives an exceptional performance portraying the humorous and eccentric meddlesome matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi.

Greg Yates was a formidable Horace Vandergelder portraying his character perfectly. The comical roles of Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker were excellently played by Simon McGee and Stephen Yeomans.

Strong individual performances were also given by Sue Towler, Emily Bennett, Sarah Houghton, Emily Halford and Dan Smith.

Hard work and enthusiasm from this company is the key to it's ongoing success.

Les Jowett



Maggie Page and Greg Yates in *Hello Dolly* at the Grand.

A variety of styles from 'folkchestra'

Bellowhead, Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton
 THE stage could barely contain the 11-piece folkchestra that is Bellowhead.

The set opened with the single tone of the marimba but quickly built up to a wall of sound that exploded into *Black Beetle Pies* from their latest album *Broadside*. They managed to get a thrash metal-style ending in.

There was a change of pace then for 10,000 Miles Away, again from the new album, and which had more of a feeling of a sea shanty. Theatricals came out as Jon Boden's distinctive voice and his fellow musicians created a sinister spy theme with *The Old Dun Cow*. By now the band were in full flow, saxophone, fiddles, accordions, trombones and guitars flying everywhere.

The packed out hall really came to life with one of Bellowhead's best known anthems *Whisky Is The Life of Man*. Then towards the end of the set they again pulled out one of their favourites, *New York Girls*.

Danny Farragher

Wishing she was an audible rocker

Sandi Thom Robin2, Bilston
 UNFORTUNATELY Scots blues singer Sandi Thom's performance was marred by some dodgy sound engineering at the Robin2 in Bilston. Even so, it seems she is more a studio artist than a live performer.

Thom is on the road promoting her latest album *Flesh and Blood* which has been produced by Rich Robinson of the Black Crowes. Although she does has a powerful voice she struggled to overcome the sound of her band on *Can't Do It All By Myself*, in which she showed her prowess on the harmonica. The struggle to be heard continued as she moved into a funkier number, *Stormy Weather* from her new

album. As expected she treated her scattering of fans to her biggest hit to date, *I Wish I Was A Punk Rocker*.

Thom moved into a harder rock number in the *Human Juke Box* before sliding into a blues riff again, showing her skills on the mouth organ.

The sound problems got worse with *I Owe You Zero* with an overpowering bass just blowing her voice out of the water. Thom then brought out *Big Ones Get Away*, which on the album features Buffy Saint Marie, this was a more low key solo on acoustic guitar.

All in all, not the best showing for Thom's talents.

Danny Farragher

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FUN GUY 5ft 7ins , medium build, seeks female, 30-40 for friendship, maybe more.



SINGLE LADIES

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(T&C's below)

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489 §

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in from a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837 §

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127 §

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485 §

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451 §

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160 §

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579 §

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407 §

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165 §

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 §

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 §

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501 §

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383277

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meals. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 §

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 §

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979 §

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401 §

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, wltm tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

SLIM male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387427

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386327 §

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383969 §

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382543 §

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383255 §

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813 §

NATALIE 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753 §

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349865

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207 §

JAN lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394663

SARAH nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTm similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887 §

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209 §

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395935

YVONNE lonely 32yr old single mum of one, slim, brown hair, WLTm discreet male for mutual attention without complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395027

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349651

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 32-45. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382769 §

FEMALE likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361871 §

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349265

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349211

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 317945

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386815 §

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591 §

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432 §

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.
(T&C's below)

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747 §

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks caring lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695 §

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825 §

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575 §

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753 §

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975 §

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941 §

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218 §

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397465

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908 §

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874 §

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380 §

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456 §

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346 §

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340 §

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049 §

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231 §

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985 §

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807 §

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473 §

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no lies, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473 §

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671 §

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061 §

CLIVE 46, seeking hot chick for plenty of action. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392772

GENUINE male, 43, brown eyes, 5ft 10ins, outgoing, adventurous, seeks slim-average build female, 30-40. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396289 §

GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159 §

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769 §

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665 §

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. TXT: GAY247 to 65125
www.localgaydate.co.uk

CD from Dudley, seeking similar of any age for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393450 §

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

What's On! Halesowen

Motown and soul sounds recreated

MOTOWN and soul hits will feature in a night of live music in Halesowen this Saturday.

Reverellers can be transported back to the musical heyday at the Junction 3 Soul Club arrives at Benjamins, in Birmingham Street.

The Blues Brothers v Motown night features an Elwood and Jake tribute with The Bluesettes, DJs Mr Motown Tommy Gunn and Mr Smooth Mike Hollis. The night runs from 8pm to 1am with tickets £5 in advance or £6 on the door. Call 0121 602 0202, 07710 131979 or 07834 809204.

Christmas lights to be switched on

HALESOWEN holds its Christmas lights switch on this Saturday.

Halesowen Ukulele Band, Ellmfield Community Choir and Halesowen's Got Talent 2012 winner will perform on the day.

The switch-on will take place in Somers Square at 5.30pm but there will be events held throughout the day starting from 1pm.

Night of comedy

QUARRY Bank's Fizzog theatre group will perform an evening of Black Country comedy at Ellowes Hall Sports College, Stickley Lane, Gornal, Dudley on November 27. Tickets are available from Changing Rooms, 47a, Kent Street, Upper Gornal.

Get poppin' and lockin' for hit hip hop show at Grand

SOME Like It Hip Hop, the acclaimed dance musical, is coming to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre next week as part of its first UK tour since wowing dance fans in London.

ZooNation's follow up to their smash hit Into The Hoods, Some Like It Hip Hop blends elements borrowed from Hollywood and Shakespeare with pure dance energy for a story about cross-dressing women taking on a man's world.

The original Hoodie on Arena stage

ODDSOCKS theatre company return to Wolverhampton with a comic romp taking a sideways look at Britain's most famous legendary outlaw.

Described as an energetic and musical production suitable for all the family, The Adventures of Robin Hood will be staged at Wolverhampton Arena Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday, November 21 and 22.

Also returning to the Wulfruna Street venue are acclaimed comedy dance duo Rannel, who tonight (Thursday) make hip hop hilarious with 2Deep, their sequel to the acclaimed F!hip F!hop.

Directed by Kate Prince and featuring original music from Josh Cohen and DJ Walde, the show combines comedy, physical theatre and liquid moves from some of the best young hip hop dancers on the UK scene.

Disguise
It tells the story of two bright girls who refuse to be kept down by a society that bans books and treats women as second class citizens, so they disguise themselves as men. Comic confusion results when romance is involved.

Some Like It Hip Hop forges elements from classic Billy Wilder movie Some Like It Hot and Shakespeare's Twelfth Night into a fresh fleet-footed fantasy.

It's at the Grand on Tuesday and Wednesday.



Cinders will go to the ball - Elisha Willis plays the title role in Birmingham Royal Ballet's popular festive production of Cinderella at Birmingham Hippodrome. She will be sharing the role with six other ballerinas during the run. Picture by Bill Cooper

Invitation to the ball for a traditional ballet treat

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet's sumptuous production of Cinderella returns to the company's home theatre, Birmingham Hippodrome, to usher in the festive season from November 21 to December 9.

The production by the company's director David Bintley got its world premiere in the city in 2010 and was televised on Christmas Day by the BBC.

The fairy tale is given the full glittering treatment and is perhaps only surpassed by family favourite The Nutcracker as the most popular Christmas ballet.

The skill of the dancers will be matched by Prokofiev's music, performed by the Royal Ballet Sinfonia.

Treat for fans of big band sound

BIG band fans will be entertained by the classic sounds of the Glenn Miller Orchestra at an event in Dudley.

Band leader Ray McVay will bring the sound of the 1940s to Dudley Town Hall on November 17 at 7.30pm.

The show features the harmonies of the Moonlight Serenaders, along with singers Catherine Sykes and Colin Anthony and Ray Wordsworth with The Uptown Hall Gang.

Tickets cost £18.50 from the box office on 01384 812812.

Open mic night at club in town

AN open mic night is being held at a Halesowen club this weekend.

It will be staged at The Laurels Club, Windmill Hill, Cradley, on Saturday from 8pm.

The following day, there will be a Free and Easy music night hosted by Mel Thomas.

For details call 0121 602 1812 or visit the website www.thelaurels.webeden.co.uk

Nolans tour off

SINGING sisters The Nolans have cancelled what was billed as their Farewell Tour. It was to have included a concert at Birmingham NIA on March 12. Cancer survivor Bernie Nolan, 52, recently revealed that she faces a new battle against the disease.

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 17.11.12

CHOICE



Paddy McGuinness

Take Me Out

ITV1, 6.45pm
Does Paddy McGuinness have the best job in telly? As if it's not enough that he gets the rewarding task of playing at being Cilla Black, the comic is constantly surrounded by (on the whole) a bunch of rather easy-on-the-eye girls. It seems a long time ago when walked in the shadow of comic sidekick and best friend Peter Kay. He's lined up four more loveless men for tonight's show: Matt, a trainer fanatic from Leicester; Pete, a builder from Chichester; Sam, a BMX champion from Colchester; and Luke, a student from Surrey.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Baking Made Easy. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Cycling: Track World Cup. **2.00** Live International Rugby Union. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.30** Children in Need: The Best Bits.
6.30 **Strictly Come Dancing.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly present from Wembley Arena, where the couples dance through the decades, from 1920s Charleston to 1970s disco. Kylie Minogue sings an old favourite.
8.00 **Merlin.** Morgana hatches a plot to murder the king with the help of an insider under her spell – but when a stable hand becomes caught in the crossfire, he threatens to ruin everything.
8.45 **The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.** With a performance by doo-wop group the Overtones.
8.55 **Casualty.** Tamzin's refusal to treat an aggressive patient has serious repercussions, while Tom and Sam disagree over the best treatment for a patient with a rare genetic disorder.
9.45 **Live at the Apollo.** New series. Dara O Briain warms up the crowd before introducing stand-up routines by ventriloquist extraordinaire Nina Conti and the irrepressible Danny Bhoj.
10.15 **BBC News: Weather.**
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Highlights of today's Premier League clashes; National Lottery Update.
12.00 The Football League Show. **1.15** Weatherview. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.00** **Film: That Darn Cat!** (1965) **1.50** **Film: Miracle.** (2004) **4.00** **Fog It!** (R) **5.00** Live International Rugby Union. Ireland XV v Fiji (Kick-off 5.30pm).
7.30 **Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild.** David Attenborough reflects on his TV career, examining the changes in the natural world as well as the developments in wildlife film-making since he began in 1952. (R)
8.30 **Dad's Army.** Mainwaring and the platoon dress as firemen to take part in an initiative exercise. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and Clive Dunn. (R)
9.00 **Formula 1: The United States Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights.** Jake Humphrey introduces a chance to see the session from the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, where the 19th and penultimate round of the season is set to take place.
10.15 **The Rolling Stones: Crossfire Hurricane.** Part one of two. Documentary charting the 50-year career of the rock band, with contributions by Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts, Ronnie Wood, Bill Wyman and Mick Taylor.
11.15 **Sings the Rolling Stones.** Compilation of artists covering classic songs by the Stones, including performances by Gene Pitney, Thelma Houston, Chris Farlowe, Patti Smith, Marianne Faithfull, Devo and Melanie.
12.15 The Rolling Stones: Rock and Roll Circus. (R) **1.20** Later with Jools Holland. (R) **2.25** **Film: Night of the Living Dead.** (1968)

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** The Hive. (R) **6.50** **Cannimals.** (R) **7.00** **Cannimals.** (R) **7.05** The Avengers. **7.25** Rated A for Awesome. **7.40** Rated A for Awesome. **7.50** **Shake It Up.** **9.00** My Phone Genie. **9.25** **ITV News.** **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Dinner Date: Australia. **12.15** **ITV News: Weather.** **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.10** Holiday Home Sweet Home. **2.10** **Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.** (2005) **5.15** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.30** **ITV News: Weather.** **5.45** The Golden Rules of TV.
6.15 **New You've Been Framed!** Featuring a family having fun with a Taser.
6.45 **Take Me Out.** A Leicester fitness fanatic, a builder from Chichester, a BMX champion from Colchester and a Surrey student take part in the dating show.
8.00 **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the seventh live studio round as the remaining acts battle to win praise from the tough-talking judges and persuade viewers to pick up their phones and vote. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.
9.20 **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** The famous faces enter their second week in the jungle.
10.20 **ITV News: Weather.**
10.35 **Film: Fast & Furious.** (2009) Thriller sequel, starring Vin Diesel and Paul Walker.
12.30 The Store: ITV News Headlines. **2.35** in Plain Sight. (R) **3.55** **ITV News: Weather.** **5.30** **ITV Morning News.**

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** **Freesports on 4.** **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** **Channel 4 Presents – Lee.** (R) **9.00** **T4: Example at iTunes Festival 2012** **9.30** **T4: Made in Chelsea.** **10.35** **T4: Suburgatory.** **11.15** **T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **11.45** **T4: The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **12.15** **T4: The Simpsons.** (R) **12.40** Deal or No Deal. **1.45** **Channel 4 Racing.** **3.55** **Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **4.25** **Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **5.25** **Come Dine with Me Down Under.** **5.55** **Come Dine with Me Down Under.**
6.25 **Channel 4 News.**
6.55 **4thought tv.** Members of the public reflect on whether faith is a matter of nature or nurture, in light of scientific studies that suggest humans may be programmed from birth to believe in a god.
7.00 **Heston's Fantastical Food.** Heston Blumenthal is given access to Europe's largest ice-cream factory to build the world's biggest 99 Flake – taller than five metres and weighing in at more than a ton. (R)
8.00 **Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen.** (2009) The shape-changing robots fight for control of a machine hidden somewhere on Earth with the power to destroy planets. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Shia LaBeouf.
10.50 **Film: The Crazies.** (2010) Premiere. Horror remake, starring Timothy Olyphant.
12.50 **Film: Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives.** (2010) **2.40** **Hollyoaks.** **4.45** **Countdown.** (R) **5.30** **Make Do & Mend.** (R) **5.55** **Channel 4 Presents.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!** **10.00** **Power Rangers: Super Samurai.** **10.35** **ThunderCats.** **11.10** **Looney Tunes.** (R) **11.20** **Looney Tunes.** (R) **11.25** **Highland Emergency.** (R) **11.55** **Wild Things with Dominic Monaghan.** (R) **12.55** **Film: The Train Robbers.** (1973) **2.45** **Film: Brannigan.** (1975) **4.55** **5 News Weekend.** **5.00** **Film: Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes.** (1984)
7.40 **NCIS.** Tony's cover is blown as the hunt for La Grenouille intensifies and his car is later destroyed in an explosion, leaving the rest of the team convinced he is dead. (R)
8.35 **NCIS.** The agents are called to the scene of a car accident in which a petty officer was killed. (R)
9.25 **CSI: NY.** A woman who was nearly beaten to death identifies her son as the attacker, but a convicted drug dealer later confesses to the crime, forcing the team to investigate his motives. (R)
10.25 **CSI: Miami.** Part one of two. The murder of a journalist is linked to a Miami council leader, and Horatio comes up against an old adversary. Guest starring Malcolm McDowell.
11.20 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Part two of two. Brass fights for his life after being shot, while the team tries to focus on investigating the death of a man decapitated on a train track. (R)
12.15 **SuperCasino.** **4.00** **House Doctor.** (R) **4.25** **Great Artists.** (R) **4.50** **County Secrets.** (R) **5.05** **Hana's Helpline.** (R) **5.15** **The Milkshake! Show.** (R) **5.40** **Thomas & Friends.** (R) **5.50** **Roary the Racing Car.** (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **International Rugby Union**
8.00 **Top Gear** **9.00** **Russell Howard's Good News Extra** **9.45** **Film: Bruce Almighty** (2003) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Jennifer Aniston and Morgan Freeman. **11.20** **Family Guy**
BBC Four
7.00 **Metalworks!** – The Golden Age of Silver **8.00** **Shock and Awe: The Story of Electricity** **9.00** **The Killing III** **11.00** **Chateau Chunder: When Australian Wine Changed the World**
ITV2
4.35 **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** **5.35** **Film: The Flintstones** (1994) **7.20** **Film: Dragonheart** (1996) Fantasy adventure, starring Dennis Quaid and featuring the voice of Sean Connery. **9.20** **The Xtra Factor** **10.20** **I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now!** **11.25** **Take Me Out – The Gossip**
ITV3
3.50 **Agatha Christie's Marple** **5.55** **Murder, She Wrote** **6.55** **Rosemary & Thyme** **8.00** **Foyle's War** **10.00** **Bomb Girls** **11.00** **Film: The Portrait of a Lady** (1996)
ITV4
2.05 **Film: Lonely Are the Brave** (1962) **4.20** **Film: The Battle of Midway** (1976) **7.00** **The Motorbike Show** **8.00** **River Monsters** **9.00** **Film: Firefox** (1982) **11.45** **Hamish & Andy's Euro Gap Year**
E4
3.30 **Made in Chelsea** **4.30** **Baggage** **5.35** **How I Met Your Mother** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Rules of Engagement** **9.00** **Rude Tube** **10.05** **Film: Shooter** (2007)
Film4
2.50 **Post Grad** (2009) **4.35** **The Day After Tomorrow** (2004) **7.05** **Big Momma's House** (2000) **9.00** **Hush** (2008) **10.45** **Pitch Black** **Heist** **11.00** **Don't Look Now** (1973)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 18.11.12

CHOICE



Suranne Jones

The Secret of Crickley Hall
BBC1, 9pm

If there's one upside to the dark, cold November nights, it's that they provide the perfect conditions for snuggling up on the sofa and watching a spooky drama. Suranne Jones and Tom Ellis star as Eve and Gabe, a London-based couple who move to the north, hoping a change of scene will help them recover from the mysterious disappearance of their young son. Sadly, their new home of Crickley Hall proves anything but comforting, as things go bump in the night – and flashbacks to 1943 suggest the building could have a tragic history.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.25** Countryfile. (R) **1.20** Bargain Hunt. **2.20** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.20** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **4.20** Lifeline. **4.30** Points of View. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R) **5.50** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. John Craven and Julia Bradbury are in rural Leicestershire, visiting an Army training camp for dogs and horses, as well as planting 3,000 saplings in an empty field. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Another couple leave and Girls Aloud perform.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team arrives at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall in Falmouth, where objects include a diamond and gold ring with a grim family history. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 The Secret of Crickley Hall. New series. Drama about a grieving London couple haunted by the children who lived in their house during the war. Suranne Jones, Tom Ellis, Olivia Cooke and Douglas Henshall star.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News: Weather.

10.25 Formula 1: The United States Grand Prix – Highlights. **12.25** Film: Hooper. (1978) **2.00** Weatherview. **2.05** Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) **3.05** The Paradise. (R) **4.05** Film 2012 with Claudia Winkelman. (R) **4.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. Masterclass. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.05** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Phineas and Ferb. **8.15** Phineas and Ferb. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** Countrywise. **12.40** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Film: Carry On Henry. (1971) **2.40** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Surprise Surprise. With One Direction. Team GB hockey players and the 60 Minute Makeover crew.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Another elimination and more performances by chart-topping stars.

9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! The latest stories from the Australian jungle and another unlucky celebrity faces a Bush Tucker Trial to earn food for their hungry fellow campers.

10.00 Harry & Paul. The duo reinvent themselves as Ricky Gervais.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of Fulham v Sunderland.

11.20 Hebburn. Jack spends his first day as editor of the Hebburn Advertiser. (R)

11.50 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. With guest host Richard Ayoade. (R)

12.00 Film: My Year Without Sex. (2009) **1.50** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: Engle Benji. **6.10** Jungle Junction. **6.25** Jungle Junction. **6.35** Signed Stories. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.05** Matt Hatter Chronicles. **7.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **7.35** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.00** Phineas and Ferb. **8.15** Phineas and Ferb. **8.30** Big Time Rush. **9.00** Good Luck Charlie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **10.25** Dinner Date. **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** Countrywise. **12.40** ITV News: Weather. **12.55** Film: Carry On Henry. (1971) **2.40** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** The Nation's Favourite Number 1 Single. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme: Weather.

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12.00 Film: My Year Without Sex. (2009) **1.50** BBC News. **4.35** Close.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Extreme Sailing Series. **7.30** Sailing: America's Cup Discovered. (R) **7.55** Channel 4 Presents – Oscar. (R) **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. **12.25** The Simpsons. **12.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **4.40** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.10** Hugh's 3 Good Things. **5.40** Film: Home Alone. (1990)

7.40 Channel 4 News. **7.55** 4thought.tv. Members of the public ask whether faith is a matter of nature or nurture, in light of recent scientific studies that suggest humans may be programmed from birth to believe in a god.

8.00 How Britain Worked. Guy Martin helps with the restoration of the oldest surviving Brixham sailing trawler and discovers how Britain acquired its taste for fish and chips.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie and the team struggle to regain control of the operation, Saul visits Aileen Morgan in solitary confinement and Dana presses Finn to come clean about the hit-and-run.

10.00 Film: Watchmen. (2009) At the height of the Cold War, former superheroes discover a conspiracy when one of their number is murdered. Comic-book drama, starring Patrick Wilson and Jackie Earle Haley.

1.05 American Football Live. **4.45** Grudge Match. (R) **4.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.50** Channel 4 Presents – Jonnie. (R) **5.55** The Treacle People. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Mio Mao. (R) **8.00** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. **10.35** ThunderCats. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.20** Meals in Moments. (R) **11.30** Rolf's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.35** Film: You've Got Mail. (1998) **2.50** Film: Open Season. (2006) **4.35** Film: Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle. (2003)

6.40 5 News Weekend. **6.45** Film: Stealth. (2005) Action adventure, with Jamie Foxx.

9.00 Film: Unforgiven. (1992) Two gunslingers help a bounty hunter kill a pair of cowboys who attacked a prostitute. Western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. With Gene Hackman and Morgan Freeman.

11.30 Hatfields & McCoy's. Anse sends his men out to kill Randall. (R)

12.30 How Do They Do It? (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Snog, Marry, Avoid? **8.00** Gavin & Stacey **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** Film: Her **11.00** American Dad! **11.45** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 The Last Days of Steam **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India **9.00** From the Sea to the Land Beyond: Storyville **10.15** Film: Undertow (2009) **11.50** Michael Wood: The Story of India

ITV2
3.10 Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **4.55** Take Me Out **6.05** Take Me Out – The Gossip **6.50** Film: Twins (1998) **9.00** The Xtra Factor: Results **10.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.30** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here Now! **11.35** Girls'n3nds

ITV3
2.55 A Touch of Frost **4.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **7.00** Lewis. A college master is found dead at the university's astronomical observatory. **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Cracker

ITV4
2.55 Film: Aces High (1976) **5.15** Film: Dunkirk (1958) **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Bride of Chuckie (1998)

E4
3.25 Charlie's Angels **4.20** Made in Chelsea **5.20** Scrubs **5.50** Suburgatory **6.20** The Big Bang Theory **8.20** Film: Hot Shots! (1991) **10.00** Misfits **11.00** 2 Broke Girls **11.30** The Big Bang Theory

Film4
3.10 Crocodile Dundee (1986) **5.10** Carry On Up the Khyber (1968) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) **9.00** Patriot Games (1992) Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford. **11.15** After the Sunset (2004)

Nativity 2

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What's On!

Film Choices

Monday

A Few Good Men, Channel 5, 11.05pm

Three Navy lawyers are assigned to defend two marines accused of murdering a comrade-in-arms. Their investigation unearths evidence that the defendants may have been acting under orders, which points to a trail of corruption leading all the way to a top-ranking officer. Drama based on Aaron Sorkin's stage play, starring Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, Kevin Pollack, Jack Nicholson, Kiefer Sutherland and Kevin Bacon. (1992)

Tuesday

Hollywoodland, BBC1, 11.40pm

Fact-based mystery focusing on the life and sudden death of actor George Reeves, famed for his role as Superman in the 1950s TV series. The story is told in flashback through the eyes of a private investigator hired by Reeves' mother to unearth the truth surrounding his mysterious fate. Starring Adrien Brody, Diane Lane, Ben Affleck, Bob Hoskins, Robin Tunney, Molly Parker, Kathleen Robertson and Lois Smith. (2006)



The Transporter, Wednesday, Channel 5, 9pm

Wednesday

The Transporter, Channel 5, 9pm

An underworld courier lives by a simple code – to never ask what he is transporting. However, when he discovers his latest cargo is alive, his conscience gets the better of him and he faces a dangerous game of cat and mouse with his unknown but powerful employers. Action adventure, starring Jason Statham, Shu Qi, Matt Schulze, Francois Berleand, Ric Young, Doug Rand, Didier Saint Melin and Tonio Descarville. (2002)

Thursday

Navy Seals, Channel 5, 10pm

The US Navy's elite commando force embarks on a dangerous covert mission to rescue hostages from an Arab terrorist in Beirut. However, the assignment proves far more serious than expected when they realise their enemies have acquired powerful stolen missiles. Action adventure, starring Charlie Sheen, Michael Biehn, Bill Paxton, Joanne Whalley, Rick Rossovich, Cyril O'Reilly, Dennis Haysbert and Nicholas Kadish. (1990)

Friday

Accepted, ITV1, 11.10pm

A high-school student denied a place at any of his chosen colleges resolves to set up an educational institution of his own in collaboration with slacker friends. The ingenious misfits go to great lengths to convince their parents of the college's authenticity, despite its unorthodox curriculum. Comedy, starring Justin Long, Jonah Hill, Adam Herschman, Columbus Short, Maria Thayer, Lewis Black, Blake Lively and Mark Derwin. (2006)

Pick of the Week

The past comes back to haunt grieving parents

Many parents will struggle to think of anything more terrifying than their child going missing, but *The Secret of Crickley Hall* somehow manages it.

Based on a novel by horror king James Herbert, the three-part drama follows a couple who lose their son, and then move into a haunted house.

But while it may sound like a nightmare, it's part of what attracted Suranne Jones to the drama.

She explains: "I think that's the backdrop of any good ghost story – a missing child or some sort of trauma that kind of helps the audience relate to the characters."

So, viewers should prepare to have their bones chilled by this tale of Eve (Jones) and Gabe (Tom Ellis), who live in London with their three children.

One day an exhausted Eve is in a playground with their son Cam, and briefly falls asleep – and when she wakes, the youngster is nowhere to be seen. Although the family cling to the hope that he will be found alive, almost a year passes with no news.

Gabe eventually accepts a new job in the north, believing his wife and two daughters, Loren and Cally, will benefit from a change of scene.

Unfortunately, it seems he may have made the wrong decision in moving to Crickley Hall, which turns out to have a sinister past.

Running parallel to Gabe and Eve's story are the events of 1943, when Crickley Hall was an orphanage, run by Augustus Cribben (Douglas Henshall) and his sister Magda (Sarah Smart).

New tutor Nancy (Olivia Cooke) suspects the children are being mistreated, but no one seems to believe her.

And when back in 2012, Cally and Loren experience visions of a man with a cane, it seems the time periods may not be as remote as we thought.

For Suranne Jones, it's the two timelines that make the drama so unique. "When I read the script, I'd never done anything in the ghost genre, and the narrative of a woman losing her child was the strong bit for me, as well as the two time frames."

"You're following a woman's desperation, but then you'll also see what she doesn't see."

And unlike in most horror films, where you're screaming at the characters to just get out of the haunted house, Eve has a reason for sticking around, even after the family dog runs off in terror.

She becomes convinced that one of the ghostly presences in Crickley Hall is her son Cam, who seems to be telling her that the children hold the key to his disappearance and can tell her where he is...

If it sounds creepy on the page, it should be even more unsettling on screen, and Jones admits she can't wait to see the finished product.

"The CGI guys will get on top of it, there'll be a brilliant composer, the editing will be great... I mean we need to do our job as well, but those are the things that are going to make it jump along the way."

Don't say you haven't been warned.

Iain de Caestecker, Maisie Williams, Bill Milner and Pixie Davies also star.



Suranne Jones stars in *The Secret of Crickley Hall*, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday

The All New Gadget Show Channel 5, 8pm

Christmas has definitely come early for Jason Bradbury and Pollyanna Woodward. They are off to Israel, where they test two of the latest underwater cameras in the Red Sea. (Clearly their local swimming baths wasn't deemed exotic enough). If you're one of the few people in the world thinking: 'What's the best blender to make a decent leek smoothie, and what battery-powered torch is powerful enough to fry an egg on?' then you're in luck as Jason provides the answer to both questions. The main purpose of the trip is to visit Israel's annual Kinernet networking event for technology enthusiasts. Jason tries out his powered kiteboard, and there's also a guide to powering a mobile phone using water.

Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Channel 4, 8.30pm

A few years ago Stephen Fry presented a countdown of the 100 greatest gadgets for Channel 4. Now he's back with another strand bound to appeal to those of us whose rooms are usually lit up like Christmas trees with all the things on charge. He'll be sharing his passion for technology, trying out all manner of gizmos and prototypes, as well as attempting to create his own supergadget. Jonathan Ross joins him for the inaugural edition, and they examine how the daily commute can be made more bearable. The world's smallest electric car, an unusual bicycle and a 3D headset are scrutinised, and Stephen designs a fantasy vehicle that would avoid the horrors of traffic jams.

Tuesday

Last Tango in Halifax BBC1, 9pm

Don't panic – despite the title, the plot won't involve any naughtiness in a West Yorkshire town. Instead, this six-part romantic comedy focuses on the rather touching tale of Celia Dawson and Alan Trenchard, former lovers who haven't seen each other for 60 years. After chatting on Facebook, they decide to meet up again, and discover they were kept apart all those decades ago by a simple twist of fate. What's more, their old, passionate feelings for each other are immediately reignited. Anne Reid, Derek Jacobi, Sarah Lancashire and Nicola Walker head the cast.

Wednesday

I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! ITV1, 8.30pm

This time last year much of Blighty was hooked on the site of Jessica Jane Clement and Mark Wright wearing trousers full of water trying to complete their latest trial. Well, it was nothing if not original. The sight of Sinitta stood all night in a cave of creepy crawlies was also good fun, and who could forget eventual winner Dougie Poynter racing round what looked like a rat's maze trying to collect stars for the evening meal? By now we'll have seen all manner of Z-list celebs put through their paces, while Ant and Dec commentate on their progress.

Thursday

Hunted BBC1, 9pm

It's fair to say that most of Melissa George's best roles have come on the small screen – she's been particularly fine in this gritty drama, which has buried memories of her role as Angel in *Home and Away* once and for all. This is the final episode, and it promises to be gripping stuff – Sam is exposed as a spy and trapped inside the house where she is slowly, and secretly, being poisoned to death. Her memory also begins to return, and it's then that she realises why the Hourglass conspirators want her dead. But time is running out – can she find a way to stop them, and save herself, before it's too late?

Living with My Stalker Channel 4, 10pm

It's somewhat a given these days that online daters will tell a couple of little white lies to make themselves sound a more attractive option to prospective partners – and there's no real harm in that. But for trainee doctor Alison Hewitt, the nightmare began when she agreed to meet Al Amin Dhalla – who she thought was a respectable Canadian businessman. As

it turned out, Dhalla's entire life story was based on lies – but Alison and her family didn't know the half of it. After the couple broke up, it became clear that the Dhalla wouldn't stop at anything to get her back, including poison pen letters, arson, building a torture chamber and eventually hiring a hit man.

Friday

Have I Got News for You BBC1, 9pm

Now pay attention comedy fans. What we have here is a half hour collection of topical news stories lined up in the satirical crosshairs of agents Ian Hislop, Paul Merton and their guests – comedian Marcus Brigstocke and journalist Rachel Johnson. The quartet will be trying to guess what happened next, the missing headlines and assorted other teasers posed by this week's celebrity guest host – James Bond legend Roger Moore.

Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild BBC2, 9pm

The word 'legend' gets bandied around a lot in TV, but if there is one man who deserves the term, it's David Attenborough. Not only has he been on our screens for an impressive 60 years, his programmes have helped to advance our understanding of the world around us – and there are very few celebs who can say that. However, it seems David continues to amass his learning, as he looks back at some of the scientific breakthroughs that have been made during his decades on the air. And it's not just the theories and scientific concepts that have changed – there have also been extraordinary advances in filming.

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A Part Furnished To Suit Traditional Semi Detached House, Close To Local Shops, Train Station And M5 J2. Briefly comprising: Three Bedrooms, Through Lounge Dining Room With Feature Fireplaces, Fitted Kitchen With Appliances, House Bathroom With Shower, Bed Rooms, Double Glazing, Double Glazing, Garage And Driveway Parking, Rear Gardens.

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STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terraced house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front.

£525 PCM



BARTLEY GREEN, LUDFORD ROAD

An unfurnished Semi detached house, located in the Woodgate Area, ideally located for the local primary school, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Large Lounge, House Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Mature Rear Garden.

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CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

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An unfurnished semi detached house, close to Merry Hill shopping centre, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Gardens, Allocating Parking Space.

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CRADLEY HEATH, VICTORIA ROAD

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CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

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A 1930s extended detached family house in Bewdley with large south-facing rear gardens is for sale with a price tag of £289,950.

The property, in Kidderminster Road, has accommodation briefly comprising of porch entrance, reception hall, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen and utility, three bedrooms and nursery, bathroom and double garage and workshop.

The house enjoys a delightful and convenient location on the outskirts of Bewdley, with the enclosed porch entrance leading to a spacious reception hall with oak flooring.

The dining room, 14ft by 12ft, has a traditional fire oak surround, inset with tiles to an open fire, while the lounge - 13ft 2in by 12ft - has a mahogany effect fire surround with coal effect fire and double doors to the garden.

Extended

The breakfast kitchen, 15ft by 9ft 10in, has been extended to provide a breakfast area with a central archway, and fitted with a range of wall and base cupboards, stainless steel one and a



This Bewdley property is spacious inside and out with three bedrooms, double garage and large gardens

half sink, side drainer and mixer tap, space for cooker and built-in cupboards forming a pantry, plus a utility room with base cupboards.

On the first floor are two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, a third bedroom and bedroom four which is an occasional room or nursery, while the shower room is fitted in white with a corner cubicle, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

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New Seat compact has a pedigree



The Ibiza Cupra is powered by a 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine

SEAT has introduced the Ibiza Cupra. Shown first as a concept during April's Beijing International Automotive Exhibition, the Cupra is now unveiled in barely touched production form.

The Ibiza Cupra is a package that's simultaneously compact and versatile, making it an extremely compelling day-to-day performance car. Performance is scintillating, with a 0-62mph time of just 6.9 seconds and a top speed of 142mph, yet it is exceptionally efficient, with average fuel consumption of 47.9 mpg.

Due to arrive in the UK in January 2013 priced at £18,825, with order books opening next week, the new Ibiza Cupra follows more than 16 years of heritage. The Cupra name was born in 1996 as a special, top-of-the-line Ibiza built to commemorate Seat's World Rally Championship victory in the 2.0-litre category. Since then a Cupra has always featured in the Seat model line-up, with the name adorning both the Ibiza and Leon ranges.

Supercharger

Powered by a 1.4-litre TSI petrol engine that develops 180PS and 250Nm, owing to a turbocharger and a supercharger as well as direct injection, the latest Ibiza Cupra is truly worthy of the name, and begins the next chapter of the Cupra success story.

The state-of-the-art TSI power unit is a compact piece of hi-tech equipment that guarantees exceptionally refined performance during day-to-day driving, while a unique sound actuator in the

exhaust system allows for an extra sporty sound when the driver desires it. And for extra driver involvement, the seven-speed DSG twin-clutch automatic transmission, with its extremely short shift times, can be operated via paddles mounted behind the steering wheel.

The chassis of the Ibiza Cupra has been tuned for maximum agility and precision. The ride height has been lowered compared to the standard car, and an optional AP Performance braking system is available, offering remarkable stopping power.

An XDS electronic differential lock reduces the tendency to understeer and improves handling through fast corners, and an ESP electronic stability system incorporating hill start is part of the safety package that comes as standard on the Ibiza Cupra; the car has been awarded the maximum five stars in the Euro NCAP crash test.

Integrated

The edgy lines of the standard-fit bi-xenon lights are typical of the new Seat design language, while being perfectly integrated into the Ibiza's sculptural form.

The LED daytime running lights trace the line of the headlights to deliver a unique light signature, as do the LED rear lights. The bi-xenon headlamp technology delivers perfect illumination, while cornering lights are integrated into the large fog lamps.

The side view of the three-door coupé is brought to life by the sharply defined lines and edges, with the muscular rear shoulders and exclusive 17in wheels underscoring the car's dynamics.

The black, high-gloss exterior mirrors provide a clear contrast to the paintwork of the Ibiza Cupra, while the powerful rear end underscores once again the special role of the Ibiza Cupra as the new benchmark for compact cars – a broad bumper frames the substantial, matte black diffuser incorporating the trapezoidal exhaust outlet.

The emotional power of the exterior design is repeated in the interior of the Ibiza Cupra, in its extremely minimalist, clearly structured cockpit; the exceptional feeling of quality, the ergonomic excellence and the precision of the workmanship all underscore Seat's dedication to detail. The new sports steering wheel features the Cupra logo, and the shift paddles for the DSG transmission are within easy reach of the driver's fingertips. Additionally, the Cupra features unique sports seats with optional two-colour leather upholstery.

The entertainment system in the Ibiza Cupra is completely new – the high-performance audio system is enhanced by the innovative Seat Portable System. The highly functional unit, which debuted in the Mii city car, is removable for mobile use yet perfectly integrated into the vehicle electronics system. Its extensive functions include a navigation system, Bluetooth audio streaming, a Micro SD card slot for music storage, hands-free phone system with voice control, and an on-board computer.

As the flagship car of the Ibiza range, the Cupra gets a number of standard equipment items over and above the Ibiza FR, which itself is a generously equipped model.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Civic range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 32.5 – 55.4 (8.7 – 5.1), Extra Urban 54.3 – 76.3 (5.2 – 3.7), Combined 44.1 – 67.3 (6.4 – 4.2). CO2 emissions: 150 – 110g/km.

Model shown: Civic 1.4i-VTEC SE Manual in non-metallic Milano Red at £16,955 On The Road. Terms and Conditions: New retail Civic registrations (excluding Civic TD) from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. Honda Aspirations (PCP): Example shown based on annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge: 5p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 400 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8DY. Servicing: Three years' complimentary servicing or 37,500 miles, whichever comes first and includes a maximum of three services. Complimentary servicing covers the manufacturer's scheduled servicing only.

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City car that is practical and delivers on economy

By Bob Hickman

SKODA has introduced yet another vehicle to its already expanding portfolio of excellent cars and suggests that Citigo redefines what is possible with yet another niche market car categorised as a city car.

It has very small exterior dimensions with exceptional interior space, offering ample accommodation for four adults. Add in great manoeuvrability, exceptional comfort and quite high levels of equipment, and Skoda says that the Citigo has been designed to deal with almost anything that life can throw at it.

We are living in difficult times with recession and austerity, and people are looking to see where they can save a few pennies – and in motoring we can save not pennies but pounds.

Petrol prices are continually spiralling upwards so we need to eke out more miles per gallon. The more miles per gallon, the less excise duty and insurance we pay.

The Citigo is an all-new city car. It is a unique design and it maximises space on a very small footprint. There is little doubt that the market for city cars is going to be the new growth area. A few years ago it was off-roaders and then SUVs, people carriers, now the marketplace is for small cars but with maximum carrying capacity. You only need to look around and you can see other manufacturers have already entered into this important market sector.

The amount of space in the Citigo is very good. There is plenty of room for four adults and this contained in a vehicle a mere 3,540mm long and 1,640mm wide. I actually had a sit in the back of the vehicle with my wife and we were comfortable in the rear. We had sufficient head and shoulder room, and importantly legroom. And even allowing for the seats in a driving position that I normally occupy as a six-footer, there was still space for the rear passengers.

The boot is not over generous at 251 litres but when you drop the seats it rises dramatically. But do not overlook the fact that this is primarily a city car, it is not designed for huge luggage capacity, but it is sufficient to get the daily or weekly shopping in.

One feature that the Citigo will reward you with is its ability to find car parking spaces. Being so small, spaces that you would normally think impossible, can swallow up the Citigo.

Entertaining

The driving dynamics are quite entertaining for such a small car, the engine is a three-cylinder 999cc and produces 60bhp. There is also a further option of more power but the smaller derivative will enable you to reach 62mph in 14 seconds and it runs out of puff at 99mph. There is a 75bhp option available and this knocks a second off the 0-60 time and raises your top speed to about 106mph.

Fuel consumption figures claimed for both vehicles is in the region of mid-60s on the combined cycle. Phenomenal fuel figures are quoted, but as we all know these figures are achieved in laboratory conditions, but we should still be obtaining figures in the low-50s, which is exceptional.

The important CO2 figures are given as 105 and 108 respectively for the two power derivatives, so you can expect a low road fund licence, and this is another bonus to reduce motoring costs. Not quite the nil rated but not far away at a mere £20 per annum.

There are three versions available – S, SE and Elegance, entry level being the S with good, old fashioned wind-up windows, and sadly, no air conditioning. The SE is probably the derivative to go for, it benefits from electric front windows, remote central locking, manual air conditioning.

I really do not want a vehicle anymore without central locking, with wind-up windows and without air conditioning, things that we now take for granted. So I would avoid the S level, although all the models have ABS and four air bags, and all models except the entry level have an Electronic Brake Sensor facility.

You have to make a further choice between a three-door and a five, and I think this will interest a lot of car buyers. It is always easier to get in and out of small city car when you have five doors.

My choice would be the five-door middle of the range SE. As a further sweetener towards downsizing and the Citigo, what about a five-door SE 999cc engine with an automatic gearbox? I don't think you could get a better small package.

Skoda has introduced what they suggest is a simple pricing structure, but I do find it a little complicated. The entry level Citigo three-door starts things off at £7,630 and the top specification Citigo Elegance is priced at £10,415. Skoda then gives you a list of various options dependent on your derivative – Comfort packs, Style packs, Summer packs, Safety packs and all manner of extras that you can build into your car.

All in all, the Citigo will win friends and with Skoda's reputation now of being manufacturers of superb, reliable, quality vehicles. I see nothing but another success for the company.



The new Skoda Citigo is available in 60bhp and 75bhp engines



The Skoda Citigo has an exceptionally spacious interior

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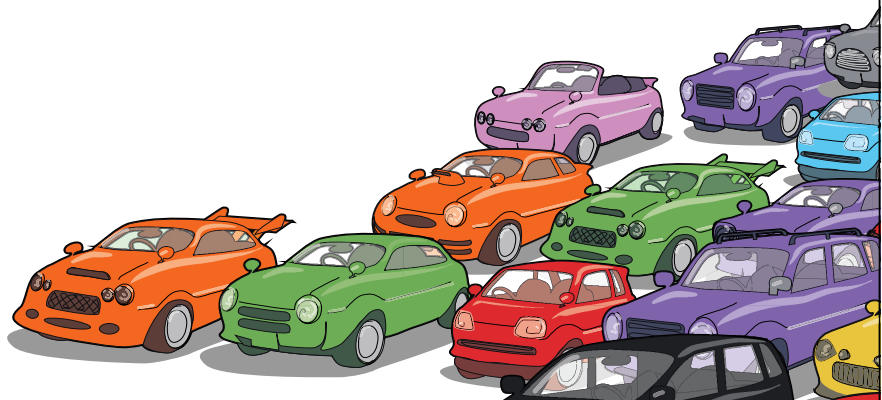
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Old Hales get some stick for losing run

Droitwich 10
Old Halesonians Ladies 1
OLD HALES Ladies first suffered their worst league defeat of the season.

Without a full squad, it was always going to be an uphill battle and a disappointing performance led to the heavy defeat, on a morning which Hales will soon hope to forget.

The only consolation came from goal-scorer Gemma Taylor.

Bridgnorth 4 Old Halesonians 3
Lady Luck again failed to shine on the winless seconds.

Despite facing an unbeaten Bridgnorth side, Old Hales were confident but they fell behind following the controversial award of a penalty stroke.

Hales keeper Steve Charlton guessed right but couldn't quite get to the ball.

Bridgnorth increased their lead when a deflection off visiting captain Mark Rigby's stick sent the ball into the net.

Hales raised their game, and came back with a goal from Ashley Greaves to make it 2-1, but Bridgnorth struck again before half-time.

The second half didn't go to plan as Greaves missed a penalty flick after the ball hit a defender's foot on the line and Harry Hughes was yellow-carded for dissent.

Bridgnorth, with a man advantage, found the gaps and scored their fourth, but the return of Hughes reignited Hales and they produced a final quarter of brilliant hockey.

Tom Bolton's strike deflected into the net off a Bridgnorth defender's stick, and Hughes scored from a penalty corner.

As the visitors pressed, three shots were cleared off the line as Bridgnorth held on.

Lichfield 6 Old Halesonians 3
The mid-table thirds found themselves 4-0 down at the break at the hands of promotion hopefuls Lichfield.

A much-improved second-half performance saw Hales score three times.

But the goals from Matt Harrold, Deck Glaze and Damian Shackleton were not enough to produce a comeback.

Lichfield added two further goals and ran out 6-3 winners.

Results: Kidderminster Ladies firsts 7 Old Hales Ladies seconds 0, Old Hales fourths 1 Edgbaston 1, Old Hales fifths 3 Hampton 3, Streety 1 Old Hales Badgers 2.



Birmingham heavyweight Johnny Prescott, left, during his final fight, against Joe Bugner in 1970

Boxer Prescott dies at 74

CELEBRATED boxer Johnny Prescott has died after a long illness, aged 74.

The Birmingham heavyweight, whose lifestyle focused the sport's media spotlight on the city in the 1960s and 70s, died at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, on Saturday. He won 34 out of 49 fights, including 13 knock-outs.

National boxing promoter Bruce Baker said: "I was only a schoolboy boxer when Johnny was fighting, and he was definitely one of my idols."

"He took on some really good people and had a fantastic record."

"He was a true fighter, one of the really great heavyweights, an inspira-

Obituary

tion. It's very sad - 74 is not very old these days. He probably did not get the recognition he deserved."

The Birmingham City supporter, who was brought up by his grandmother in Henry Street, Nechells, won the Midlands title and challenged for the British and Commonwealth crowns against Henry Cooper.

After one win against Brian London in Blackpool he was photographed with Miss Great Britain Dianne Westbury and Miss World Ann Sidney on each arm. His first fight came in 1961 when

he defeated Derek Kilburn on points. He then won nine with knockouts, including the Midland title against Tony Smith.

He suffered his first defeat when he took on Henry Cooper's twin brother Jim in 1963 at the Embassy. But he bounced back and arguably his greatest moment came when he took on Henry Cooper at St Andrew's in 1965.

The fight was postponed for a day because of bad weather and Prescott was stopped in the 10th round, but his efforts earned compliments from critics and champion Cooper. Prescott hung up his gloves in 1970 after losing on points to Joe Bugner.

Fans' optimism growing after first away victory

Wigan 1 Albion 2

TRY as they might to keep a lid on the excitement swirling around The Hawthorns, the Baggies' performances are creating a fervour they cannot control.

They reached the 20-point mark with this latest impressive day's work at the DW Stadium, *writes Steve Madeley.*

And even if players and management refuse to abandon their 40-points-first mantra, there is now a real possibility that ecstatic supporters might re-adjust their sights for them.

Saturday's victory ticked one of the few empty boxes on their early-season CV as they recorded a first away league win under Clarke's under-stated but impressive guidance.

And it left them level with the Premier League's top four with almost a third of the season completed.

Sooner or later, the rest of the country will begin to treat Albion as the real deal.

Dangerous

And any time now, Clarke and his men might just need to consider embracing the growing sense of optimism among their supporters that they can adjust their sights this season and aim higher than the traditional scrap for survival.

It will take a while before they dare to shout from the rooftops. But in quiet conversations and private moments, Baggies fans are allowing themselves to consider a challenge for European football.

A visit to the in-form and dangerous Latics represented another significant obstacle in the path of Clarke and his men.

But, with the same confidence and clarity of vision that has underpinned the first three months of the new head coach's tenure, they cleared the bar and prepared to move on to stiffer challenges that lie ahead.

It was not a vintage display by Clarke's



Smile time for Billy Jones after his cross goes in off Gary Caldwell



Romelu Lukaku powers forward during Albion's win

team, but it was a performance of poise and purpose that was good enough to overcome a serious hurdle. So far they have found no challenge too big and no mission too daunting to be attacked with conviction.

And it has all been achieved with Clarke enjoying the luxury to rotate an ever-improving squad in a way that no previous Albion manager has felt able to do.

He has done so with a sure touch and the confidence to make his own mark subtly while retaining the best traits of the team he inherited. In 11 Premier League outings under him, only once have Albion failed to perform. Saturday's scalp is the latest reason why the rest of the country might soon have to start taking them seriously.

It took them a while to adjust to the 4-4-2 system employed by Clarke for the first time

in competitive action. But they stood firm against a brief flurry of Latics attacks in the opening half-hour before warming to their task and giving their noisy 3,397 fans reason to celebrate on 31 minutes.

Captain Chris Brunt, restored to the starting line-up after injury and struggling at times in the opening moments, suddenly found his range and delivered a perfect cross from the left flank.

James Morrison made superb use of the delivery, steaming in and outjumping Gary Caldwell to head his team in front.

By the time Billy Jones galloped forward and saw his cross-shot deflected in by Caldwell for the own-goal that made it 2-0 on 43 minutes, the Baggies had taken charge of the game.

They made life harder than it need have

been just a minute later when they nodded off and allowed Aruna Kone to turn home a Jean Beausejour cross.

But stand-in goalkeeper Boaz Myhill was rarely extended fully after the break with Caldwell's poor header from a set-piece and Franco Di Santo's effort that deflected wide of Kone the closest the Latics got to an equaliser.

When the final whistle confirmed another fabulous victory for Clarke and Co, the even-tempered head coach allowed himself a momentary show of joy with a fist pump and a smile before getting back 'on message'.

But by then the jubilant travelling army of followers were in full voice behind Myhill's goal. At this rate, their volume will continue to increase along with the height of their ambitions.

Halas go third by toppling leaders

Ladies League Solihull Ladies 0 Halas Ladies 3

HALAS LADIES continued their excellent run of form by beating league leaders Solihull Ladies.

First-half goals from Sharn Griffiths, Sam Whitaker and Erin Hickin secured the win in what was Solihull's first defeat of the season.

The result moves Halas up to third in the Birmingham County Women's Premier Division.

Girls League

Withymoor U15 Girls 5 Halas Hawks U15 Girls 7

In an end-to-end match the under-15 girls were able to build and maintain a two-goal lead. Goals from Amy Blakemore (5) and Kayleigh Pomfret (2) secured all three points.

Wyre Forest U17 Girls 4 Halas Hawks U17 Girls 1

It was one of those days for the under-17 girls when nothing seemed to go right.

They took the lead midway through the first half through Elisha Rose with a fine strike from inside the box. But the home team came on strong and scored four without reply.

In the last 10 minutes, Halas put the pressure on. They hit post and bar and saw another effort cleared off the line.

Boys League

Halesowen Town U11 1 Halas Hawks U11 West 5

The under-11s West eased through to the next round of the league cup with a convincing win. Goals were scored by Casey Collins (2), Samuel Bulmer, Cameron Russell and Louis Vasilou.

Old Wulfrunians U14 North 3 Halas Hawks U14 6

Halas Hawks eased through to round two of the league cup with victory over Old Wulfs.

In an open game, the under-14s continued their recent scoring form with four goals from Connor Fisher and one each from Warren Hale and Callum Hudson.

Halas Hawks U15 5 Black Country Colts U15 3

A lively match saw the under-15s take victory.

They went ahead through Adam Higginson. Liam Holmes then doubled the lead before the break while Higginson added another just after.

The Colts hit back, but man of the match Higginson then completed his hat-trick and Charlie Bagley sealed a fine victory.



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Ben belts brace for a season tally of 20

**Halesowen Town 2
Hucknall Town 1**

BEN Haseley's brace took his season's goal tally to 20 and fired Halesowen to a first win in seven outings.

But the home defence took a while to settle in this Evo-Stik Northern First Division South encounter.

They put goalkeeper Paul Evans in trouble after 17 minutes by leaving Julian Topliss free on goal, but his lob struck the post.

The Yeltz escaped again 10 minutes later when a deflected header from Topliss bobbed just wide.

Halesowen raised their game towards half-time and Hucknall goalkeeper James Martin saved from Jean-Michel Gueyes after being set up by Dan Evans.

Haseley headed Halesowen ahead in the 34th minute at the far post after Tom Warner delivered a free-kick on his impressive debut.

Rock-bottom Hucknall levelled two minutes before the interval when the home defence failed to clear again and Rob Austin drove home.

Man of the match Haseley was denied by the feet of Martin early in the second half and then saw his 58th-minute shot drift wide.

He continued to pose the greatest danger and was thwarted by another fine save in the 71st minute, before scoring his 20th goal in the 74th minute.

Club still in the running

WEST Bromwich Harriers lie 10th out of 17 clubs after the first Birmingham Invitation Cross-Country League match at Newbould Common, Leamington Spa.

With top runners unavailable, Harriers lost ground as Nuneaton Harriers set the pace. But Harriers, relegated from Division Two last season, are in striking distance of the promotion slots.

James Jefferson was first man home for the Harriers, finishing the 10km course in 39 min 55 sec for fifth place.

Girmal Dehl was 15th (41.40) and Steve Pitt 50th (44.47). Dave Jones (at the age of 59) was 100th in 48.46, Dominic Ashton 110th in 49.45 and John Dixon 123rd in 50.36.

West Bromwich also fielded a second team who were seventh of seven.

The next league race is at Burbage Common, on December 1.



Tom Bulteel celebrates his Old Halesonians goal rush

Goal rush Bulteel steals show

Old Halesonians 7 Aldridge & Walsall 3

OLD Halesonians' hockey firsts cruised to victory against Aldridge & Walsall, with four-goal striker Tom Bulteel stealing the show.

Bulteel opened the scoring for the home side, firing home from a penalty corner. Hales soon doubled their lead, when newly-transferred Chris Hill fired a rocket into the top corner.

Hill has recently been playing for National League side Cannock.

Not to be outdone, Bulteel rifled in Hales' third with an almost identical shot. The visitors got one back after a defensive lapse, but before half-time

Paul Woodall made it 4-1 when he tapped the ball in from close range. It was, in parts, a frantic first half but a tactical switch by Hales coach Dave Butler settled his side.

They began to dominate possession and territory. Bulteel soon grabbed his hat-trick, when Doug Houghton found the striker in the D. Once again, Aldridge & Walsall struck back to make it 5-2, but a fine passing move from Bulteel and Hill, saw the former claim his fourth goal. The home side who

controlled midfield with some excellent counter-attacking play, put the game to bed as they made it 7-2.

Hill again showed his composure in front of goal, when he made a text book roll-out at the top of the D before firing the ball into the net from 16 yards.

Aldridge & Walsall grabbed another consolation before the final whistle, but it was Hales who took the points. They have a tough away fixture at the weekend as they travel to Tamworth.

More hockey - Page 39

RING-RUSTY MALE FAILS TO POST WIN

RING RUST proved costly as Chris Male paid for a poor start and conceded the English featherweight title to Josh Warrington at Dudley's The Venue.

Some 14 months out of the ring told on Male as the Cradley man didn't get into his stride until it was too late against busy Warrington, from Leeds, in their 10-round contest for the vacant belt.

But the punching postman showed real guts when he was tagged for real - possibly the first time as a professional - in the fourth round but didn't go down.

Male was in real trouble when a looping right hand landed bang on his chin. But he didn't go over and managed to remain upright even when the same shot came back over the top with similar effect by the end of the session.

Once the seventh round was in full flow, Male started to show his true form as Warrington's flurry of punches began to miss their target.

Sharp

Male worked away to the body but was wrapped up inside. By this time only a stoppage would suffice, but he never found the opportunity for the truly clean shot he needed.

Judges Shaun Messer, Terry O'Connor and Victor Loughlin all ruled unanimously in favour of Warrington by scores of 97-95, 94-92 and 98-93 respectively.

On the undercard, stablemates Steven Pearce, Kyle Spencer and Riswan Rasool extended their unbeaten records. The trio, all out of Shaun Cooper's gym in Brierley Hill, got started when Kingswinford's Spencer looked very sharp

by Craig Birch



Josh Warrington wins the verdict over Chris Male

again in shutting out William Warburton on points, 40-36, at light-middleweight.

Dudley's Rasool picked up his second professional win since turning over in March in what his first competitive fight for over a decade by the same margin as his debut, 39-38, over Kristian Light.

'Pierce Pearce', the light-welterweight from Stourbridge, bashed away at the durable Aaron Fox but couldn't get the game Wiltshire combatant out of there.

Like Spencer, Pearce had to settle for a points shut-out, bumping him up to six straight wins as a professional.



Chris Male, right, and Josh Warrington battle it out for the English featherweight title at Dudley. Pictures: Steve Leath

A night of awards to honour achievers

SPORTSMEN and women from across the Black Country took to the red carpet for the 2012 Black Country Sport & Physical Activity Awards.

It was a chance to celebrate achievements of the last 12 sporting months in the Black Country as well as recognise Olympics and Paralympics. There were 18 awards at the Copthorne Hotel, Dudley, including: **Disabled Sportsperson of the Year,**

Jordanne Whaley
The Halesowen wheelchair tennis star had an exceptional year, reaching the Wimbledon Final with doubles partner Lucy Shuker, and then topping it off with a bronze medal in the wheelchair tennis at the Paralympic Games. Whaley other wins this year include the Atlanta Open doubles.

Elvis Gordon Sports Personality of the Year, Kristian Thomas
Thomas, who trains at Halesowen's Earls High, is a key member of the British men's artistic gymnastics team which won bronze at London 2012, the best result for 100 years.

He also qualified for the all-round and vault finals. At the English Championships Thomas, from Wolverhampton, was the all round champion and won high bar gold and won high bar and vault gold at the London Open.

Coach of the Year, Michelle Baker
Baker has coached several national gymnasts at Earls High including Thomas. She is the first female coach to produce a male Olympic gymnast for Great Britain.

Full story and pictures next week

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